

The Ohio Cardinal  
The Ohio Ornithological Society  
P.O. Box 14501  
Columbus, OH 43214

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SUGARCREEK, OH  
PERMIT NO. 44

## Contents

### Fall 2009 Overview and Report

By Craig Caldwell..... 1

### Winter 2009-2010 Overview and Report

By Jim McCormac..... 46

### Lichen Composition in Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nests

By Jim McCormac and Ray E. Showman..... 72

### Christmas Bird Counts 2009-2010

By Ned Keller..... 83

### Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

By Ned Keller..... 93



The Ohio Cardinal  
Vol. 33, Nos. 1 & 2



DOUBLE ISSUE  
Vol. 33, Nos. 1 & 2  
Fall 2009, Winter 2009-2010

# The OHIO CARDINAL

Devoted to the Study and Appreciation of Ohio's Birdlife





## The OHIO CARDINAL

### Editor

Andrew W. Jones

Department of Ornithology  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
1 Wade Oval Drive – University Circle  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
(216) 231-4600, extension 3332  
E-mail: cardinal@cmnh.org

### Season Editors

Ethan Kistler and Gabe Leidy  
Spring Season

Paul Rodewald and Matt Shumar  
Summer Season

Craig Caldwell  
Fall Season

Jim McCormac  
Winter Season

### Assistant Editor

Deborah R. Griffith

281 Hyview Drive  
Washington, WV 26181  
(304) 863-9203  
E-mail: deborah330@gmail.com

### Past Publishers

John Herman (1978-1980)  
Edwin C. Pierce (1980-2008)

### Past Editors

John Herman (1978-1980)  
Edwin C. Pierce (1980-1991)  
Thomas Kemp (1987-1991)  
Robert Harlan (1991-1996)  
Victor W. Fazio III (1996-1997)  
Bill Whan (1997-2008)



Cleveland Museum of  
NATURAL HISTORY 

Thanks to the Cleveland Museum of  
Natural History for their support of *The  
Ohio Cardinal*.

*The Ohio Cardinal* is a quarterly publication devoted to the study and appreciation  
of Ohio's birdlife.

### On the cover:

Northern Wheatears appear irregularly in eastern North America during their epic fall migration to sub-Saharan Africa. Ohio has hosted just a handful of records. This particular bird was first identified by Emory Yoder on his farm in Holmes County on 12 Sep, and it persisted at this site for another three days. During the visit, over 600 people came to enjoy this vagrant. Steve Landes photographed the bird on 13 Sep, and another of his photographs appears inside this issue.



*Nelson's Sparrow* sightings have become routine along the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh in Lake County. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has been removing the invasive Phragmites along the boardwalk here, and the seed bank that persisted in the soil has reseeded the site with ideal plants for these fall migrants. Le Conte's Sparrows have been regularly seen here as well. Judy Semroc photographed this *Nelson's Sparrow* on 30 Sep.

### Instructions for Contributors

*The Ohio Cardinal* would not exist without contributions from readers. We solicit contributions, including sightings, brief notes on unusual observations, in-depth scientific articles, historical accounts, book reviews, essays, artwork, and photographs, from all observers. All contributions must be directly related to Ohio and its birdlife.

Reports of bird sightings for each season are requested. Although individual season editors compile the reports, all reports should be submitted directly to the incoming editor-in-chief Dr. Jill Russell. She can be contacted by e-mail [jill\\_russell@mail.msj.edu](mailto:jill_russell@mail.msj.edu) and by postal mail:

Dr. Jill M. Russell  
College of Mount St Joseph  
5701 Delhi Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45233-1670

Deadlines are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 25 March  
Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 25 June  
Summer (Jun, Jul) — 25 August  
Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 25 December

Please refer to previous issues of *The Ohio Cardinal* and to our website ([www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/publications/cardinal/aboutcardinal.php)) for general guidelines on style and formatting.

### Back cover:

These drowsy looking Eastern Screech-Owls were photographed by Judy Semroc on 19 Feb near her home in Stark County. The plumage colors in this species were formerly called "phases," but because this term incorrectly implies that their color will change, "morph" is a more apt term. Both morphs can freely interbreed, and they can produce offspring that are gray, red, or intermediate; the genetics involved in these color variations are not yet well understood.

## Fall 2009 Overview and Report

**By Craig Caldwell**

1270 W. Melrose Dr.  
Westlake, OH 44145  
craig\_caldwell@sbcglobal.net

Many record-high temperatures were set in early and mid-August and in late October, and a few in November. Scattered record-lows occurred around the end of August, the end of September, and the middle of October. None of the records, however, deviated much from the previous highs and lows. Rainfall was a different story: much heavier than normal rains across the north-central part of the state during the third week of August resulted in some new daily records that were triple the old ones. Similar rains in the Ohio Valley during the second week of September produced at least one record that was five times the previous high for the day. October saw heavy rains, up to triple the normal amount, in the western two-thirds of the state. Rainfall otherwise was about normal or moderately lower than usual. The only snow was an overnight fall of up to two inches in the far northeast corner of the state (records gleaned from <http://www.weather.gov> and <http://www.extremeweather.com>).

This year's migration appeared normal, if the term can be applied to such a variable phenomenon. Most species arrived or departed at the expected times and in expected numbers. However, see the accounts for American White Pelican, American

Avocet, the three phalaropes, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Red-breasted Nuthatch for some notable exceptions to the general pattern.

Waterfowl observations were greatly expanded this year by a series of Lake Erie survey flights conducted by the Division of Wildlife. Phenomenal counts were obtained of several species, such as Redhead, scaup, Common Loon, and Double-crested Cormorant.

The 2008 shorebird bonanza was not repeated because the wetland near Bellevue that flooded then did not flood again. Nevertheless, respectable numbers of all the expected species were found. The Conneaut flats, Hoover Reservoir, the south beach of East Fork Lake, Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area, and the state fish hatchery at Grand Lake St. Marys remain reliable sites for seeing these migrants.

Warbler sightings were numerous and widespread, though few extremes were noted. The much-sought Le Conte's and Nelson's sparrows were thick along Mentor Marsh's Wake Robin Trail, where *Phragmites* had been cut back to allow bird-friendly vegetation to grow. Fall sightings of winter finches were at low ebb following the invasion of 2008–2009.

The sightings described in the Species Accounts are drawn from three sources. First are the many reports provided directly to *The Ohio Cardinal*; these range from notes about a few unusual sightings to Microsoft Excel files containing the observer's entire record of the four months. The second source is the state listserv, "Ohio-birds" (<http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/OHIO.html>); postings there tend to emphasize the more highly sought species and so are mined primarily for those data. The third

source is eBird (<http://ebird.org>). A complete “dump” of all entries for the season yielded almost 69,000 individual records. Fortunately, this dataset is an Excel file and can easily be sorted to find early and late dates, maximum numbers, and other data.

Ohio’s birds can be divided into two categories, Core List and Review List species. Core species are, in practical terms, those that occur annually or once did. Review species are found less than annually, or their annual occurrence has only been for a few recent years. The Ohio Bird Records Committee (OBRC) maintains these lists and is the repository of the documentation supporting them.

All but 12 of Ohio’s 295 “core” species were reported, 50% more “misses” than in fall 2008. Nineteen review species were reported, six more than last year. One of them, Ruddy Shelduck, is undoubtedly an escapee or hatchery release. It is included because it is a curiosity, but its status could change within the state. Trumpeter Swan is included because, despite the fact that they breed in the state, there are as yet no documented occurrences of truly wild birds in Ohio since introduction efforts began in the midwestern states. Review species’ names are underlined in the species accounts. Reports whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously.

No documentation was submitted to the OBRC for seven of the review species listed. The committee urges

birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature are those of the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 50th Supplement (2009). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists’ Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. **County names** are in bold italics. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and for three organizations that occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed below. The term “*fide*” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area,

**Marion**

BSBO = Black Swamp Bird

Observatory

BRAS = Black River Audubon Society

Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park,

**Clark**

Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, **Warren**

Cedar Point = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**

Clear Fork = Clear Fork Reservoir,

**Morrow** and **Richland**

Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**

CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National

Park, **Summit** and **Cuyahoga**  
East Fork = East Fork State Park,  
**Clermont**

Headlands = Headlands Dunes State  
Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach  
State Park, and adjoining waters,  
**Lake**

Hueston Woods = Hueston Woods  
State Park including Acton Lake,  
**Butler** and **Preble**

Killbuck Marsh = Killbuck Marsh  
Wildlife Area, **Wayne** and  
**Holmes**

Killdeer Plains = Killdeer Plains  
Wildlife Area, **Wyandot**

Magee = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area,  
**Ottawa** and **Lucas**

Miami Whitewater = Miami  
Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**

Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife  
Sanctuary, **Mahoning**

m. obs. = multiple observers

Navarre = Navarre Marsh Unit of  
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge,  
**Ottawa**

OBBA II = Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II  
ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife  
Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**

OWU = Ohio Wesleyan University,  
**Delaware**

Pickerel Creek = Pickerel Creek  
Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**

Pipe Creek = Pipe Creek Wildlife  
Area, **Erie**

Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park,  
**Highland**

Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee

Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**  
Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh

State Nature Preserver, **Seneca**

Willow Point = Willow Point Wildlife  
Area, **Ottawa**

Winous Point = Winous Point  
Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

**Greater White-fronted Goose:**

Single birds were seen in Wellington, **Lorain**, on 25 Oct (Clyde Witt) and at the Hoover Reservoir dam, **Franklin**, on 10 Nov (Ruth Richards).

**Snow Goose:** The earliest report was of one seen 31 Aug in Millersburg, **Holmes** (Bruce Glick); small numbers were reported through the end of the period from several other counties in the northern half of the state. The high count was 45, mostly the blue morph, at Headlands on 05 Nov (Jerry Talkington).

**Ross's Goose:** One was seen at Pickerington Ponds on several dates between 16 and 25 Oct (Dave Slager, Ben Warner). One was at Mount Gilead State Park, **Morrow** on 01 Nov (Earl Boehm) and two (one of which was the blue morph) were at Seneca Lake, **Noble**, on 08 Nov (Thais and Drue Tepper).

**Brant:** One stayed at Conneaut 23 Sep to 06 Oct and four were there 15 Oct (Craig Holt, Mark Vass). Gabe Leidy saw one fly past the mouth of the Huron River, **Erie**, on 10 Oct and Jerry Talkington found five at Headlands on 25 Oct.

**Cackling Goose:** Five 'Richardson's' were at Conneaut on 08 Oct (Craig Holt). A single bird consorted with Canada Geese in Findlay, **Hancock**, on 23 Oct (Dave Vander Pluym); eight were at Kauser Wetland, **Paulding**, on 31 Oct (Doug and Micki Dunakin); and one was in Perrysburg, **Wood**, on 28 Oct and 04 Nov (Claire Britton).

**Canada Goose:** Several counts from areas adjoining Lake Erie exceeded 500, and the high was 1,350 along the

Port Clinton beachfront on 04 Nov (Kenn Kaufman). There were many reports of smaller numbers from over 60 inland counties.

**Mute Swan:** These were found in scattered locations throughout the period. The highest count was 10, at Lake Logan State Park, **Hocking**, on several dates (Todd Deal) and Metzger Marsh on 16 Oct (Kenn Kaufman).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Most of the sightings were in the western Lake Erie marshes; the ONWR banding teams found two to four almost daily from mid-Aug through Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), and 37 were counted during the 04 Oct census (*vide* Aaron Bartley). Inland, single birds were seen 10 Oct and 29 Nov in **Wayne** (Su Snyder) and several were at Killdeer Plains on 14 Nov (Craig Caldwell). There are, as yet, no documented occurrences of wild Trumpeter Swans in Ohio since introduction efforts began in the midwestern states.

**Tundra Swan:** The earliest reports of these migrants were on 01 Nov: the ONWR census counted 60 (*vide* Aaron Bartley) and Chris Decker found 14 at Silver Creek Metro Park, **Medina**. Flocks were seen in the northern half of the state through the end of the period, with a high count of 1,200 in Sandusky Bay near the Cedar Point Amusement Park, **Erie**, on 22 Nov (Rob and Sandy Harlan).

**Ruddy Shelduck:** One that almost surely had escaped from an aviary but is of interest nonetheless was reported 20, 22, and 30 Aug from Big Island, and what is assumed to be the same bird was reported 03, 08, and 14 Nov from Killdeer Plains (m. obs.).

**Wood Duck:** These were reported from over 40 counties. They were seen throughout the period and the high count was 174 on the 24 Oct census at Cedar Point (Elliot Tramer).

**Gadwall:** This species was reported beginning 10 Sep at Conneaut (Clyde Witt); the high count was 1,230, also on the 24 Oct census at Cedar Point (Elliot Tramer).

**American Wigeon:** The earliest report was of one at Conneaut on 02 Aug (Mark Vass) and they were seen through the end of the period. The high count was 500 on the 01 Nov ONWR census (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**American Black Duck:** With 25 counties represented, a few were reported in Aug and moderate numbers from Sep to the end of the period. The high count was 143 at Cedar Point on 24 Oct (Elliot Tramer).

**Mallard:** This species was seen throughout the state and period. The western Lake Erie marshes had several counts of 1,000 to 2,000 in Oct (m. obs.) and Winous Point held an estimated 3,000 on 11 Oct (Tom Bartlett and Shane Roberts). Inland, Pickerington Ponds had up to 300 on several dates in Oct (Dave Slager) and more than 500 were at Winton Woods County Park, **Hamilton**, on 25 Oct (Kirk Westendorf).

**[American Black Duck x Mallard]:** There were 10 reports of one or two individuals of this hybrid in Oct and Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** A sighting of 70 at Pickerel Creek on 15 Aug was an early high number (Doug Overacker).

Tom Bartlett and Shane Roberts found 350 at Winous Point on 30 Sep and 11 Oct. Smaller numbers were reported from nearly 30 other widely distributed counties.

**Northern Shoveler:** Small numbers were found throughout the state, starting with four at Conneaut on 19 Aug (*vide* BRAS). The largest flocks were of 44 in **Hancock** on 28 Sep (Betty Hardesty) and 60 at Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 01 Nov (Craig Holt).

**Northern Pintail:** Small numbers were reported from 17 counties. Magee Marsh held 220 on 20 Sep (Kenn Kaufman) and a phenomenal 527 were counted at Cedar Point on 24 Oct (Elliot Tramer).

**Green-winged Teal:** The earliest report was of two at Conneaut on 08 Aug (Craig Holt). Approximately 125 were at Sandy Ridge Metropark, **Lorain**, on 20 Sep (Rob and Sandy Harlan); and Bill Jones found 150 to 250 at Mill Creek during several Oct visits; and the 01 Nov ONWR census counted 205 (*vide* Aaron Bartley). They were reported from more than 30 other counties as well.

**Canvasback:** The few reported directly to *The Ohio Cardinal* were one at Navarre on 18 Oct (BSBO); three at Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 01 Nov (Su Snyder); 16 in **Hancock** on 28 Nov (Betty Hardesty); and one at Berlin Reservoir, **Mahoning**, on 30 Nov (Craig Holt). A flock of 38 at Bressler Reservoir, **Allen**, on 18 Oct, was among those posted on the state listserv (Rick Asamoto). Five hundred were counted on the 23 and 24 Nov Lake Erie aerial survey (Keith Lott).

**Redhead:** The earliest was a single bird at Big Island on 30 Aug (Megan Shoemaker); the next reports were from **Hancock** on 28 Sep (m. obs.). Small numbers were reported from a few other counties through the end of the period. More than 1,300 were counted on Lake Erie during the 23 and 24 Nov aerial survey (Keith Lott). A single flock of approximately 150 was seen 30 Nov at Crooked Run State Park, **Brown** (Suzanne Clingman).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Leo Deininger reported one was present at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, "...all summer until 16 Sept!" Up to eight were seen at the Sewage Lagoons, **Paulding**, from 20 Aug through Sep (Doug and Micki Dunakin). They were widely reported statewide in moderate numbers through the end of the period. The high count of 624, at Cedar Point, was on 24 Oct (Elliot Tramer), and the highest count away from Lake Erie was over 300 in Winton Woods County Park, **Hamilton**, on 07 Nov (Jay and Jack Stenger).

**Greater Scaup:** The earliest was on Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on 17 Oct (Lauren Harter). There were a few other Oct and Nov sightings of one or two birds, and eight were at Mosquito Lake, **Mahoning**, on 25 Nov (Craig Holt).

**Lesser Scaup:** This species was first reported 06 Sep at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, **Auglaize** (Chris and Ben Bowers); the next reports were from Conneaut and ONWR on 04 Oct (m. obs.). They were seen in numbers up to about 50 in 25 counties through the end of the period.

**scaup sp.:** Comprehensive surveys of Lake Erie, begun this year, found very large flocks of waterfowl out of sight of land. An example is the 75,000 scaup estimated in Maumee Bay on 24 Nov (Keith Lott). It is of course impossible to identify these scaup to species level from a moving plane.

**Harlequin Duck:** Jerry Talkington saw a single bird on 01, 03, and 05 Nov at Headlands.

**Surf Scoter:** One was found on 08 Oct at Bressler Reservoir, **Allen** (Rick Asamoto). Small numbers were reported from several Lake Erie vantage points in Nov; the high was nine in **Cuyahoga** on 20 Nov (Clyde Witt). Other inland records come from Mosquito Lake, **Trumbull**, on 01 and 25 Nov (Craig Holt); Millersburg, **Holmes**, on 06 Nov (Diane Van Schoyck); and Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain**, on 16 Nov (Su Snyder).

**White-winged Scoter:** The first was seen at Conneaut on 15 Oct (Craig Holt). One was near the **Cuyahoga** shore on BSBO's 08 Nov inaugural Lake Erie pelagic cruise (John Pogacnik, m. obs.). Other single birds were seen at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 17 and 28 Nov (Nancy Anderson) and three were at the Eastlake power plant, **Lake**, on 28 Nov (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik).

**Black Scoter:** Sightings were regular throughout Nov at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, with a high count there of 18 on 21 Nov (Nancy Anderson, m. obs.). Small numbers were also seen at **Ashtabula**, **Lake**, and other **Cuyahoga** sites. Inland reports came from Pine Lake, **Mahoning**, on 05 Nov, Berlin Reservoir, **Portage**, on



30 Nov (both Craig Holt), and Bresler Reservoir, **Allen**, on 22 Nov (Rick Asamoto).

**Long-tailed Duck:** A male and female were at Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 14 Nov (Nancy Anderson). Three flew past Lakeshore Reservation, **Lake**, on 27 Nov (John Pogacnik) and four were at the Eastlake power plant, **Lake**, on 28 Nov (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik). The 27 and 29 Oct aerial survey found 31 on Lake Erie (Keith Lott).

**Bufflehead:** One seen at Mercer Wildlife Area, **Mercer** (Chris and Ben Bowers) and two at Stokely Ponds, **Paulding**, on 20 Aug (Doug and Micki Dunakin) might have summered in those places. Migrants were seen from 25 Oct at Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain** (Clyde Witt), and through the end of the period at multiple sites. The high count was 416 on the 21 Nov Kelleys' Island census (Tom and Paula Bartlett).

**Common Goldeneye:** The earliest were two at Nesmith Lake, **Summit**, on 04 Nov (Gregory Bennett), and the high count was 41 at Kelleys' Island on 21 Nov (Tom and Paula Bartlett). Single birds were seen further inland, in **Richland** on 19 Nov (Su Snyder) and **Franklin** on 21 Nov (Dave Slager).

**Hooded Merganser:** The few seen at Pickerel Creek and ONWR in Aug were probably breeders; the one at Conneaut during that period is more of a question mark (m. obs.). Migrants were seen in almost 30 widely separated counties starting in early October; the high count was 150 in **Trumbull** on 14 Nov (Clyde Witt).

**Common Merganser:** One at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on 11 Aug could have been a non-breeding summer holdover (Betty Hardesty). The earliest migrants, a flock of 27, flew over Conneaut on 22 Aug (Tim Lenz, m. obs.). Small numbers were reported from September to the end of the period from those same sites and four other counties (m. obs.). The three seen on the Ohio River from **Clermont** on 19 Nov, although officially in Kentucky, are the only ones reported from the south (Deborah Hausrauth).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The earliest report was of a single bird at Conneaut on 30 Sep (Craig Holt). Numbers built through Oct to the high count of 5,000 on both the 15 Nov Lake Erie cruise (m. obs.) and on 19 Nov at Wildwood, **Cuyahoga** (David Kriska, m. obs.) They were also reported from 16 other counties as far south as **Clermont**.

**Ruddy Duck:** This species was reported from 28 counties throughout the state. The earliest report was of seven at Clear Fork Reservoir, **Richland**, on 11 Oct (John Herman). The high count was approximately 2,500 at Bresler Reservoir, **Allen**, on 14 Nov (Andy Sewell).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Three reports were gleaned from eBird: on 02 Aug, three were seen in **Brown** (Joshua Eastlake); one was in **Hancock** on 14 Sep (Rick Aracil and Lauren Harter); and one was at Twin Creek Park, **Montgomery**, on 25 Sep (John Hull).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** One or two were reported on various Nov dates in **Darke**, **Fayette**, **Franklin**,

**Greene, Holmes, Mahoning, Paulding, Portage, Warren, and Wyandotte** (m. obs.). Linda Kurth saw a group of seven outside Weston, **Wood**, on 18 Nov.

**Ruffed Grouse:** The sole records of live birds are of one heard drumming near Trail, **Holmes**, on 01 Aug (James F. Yoder) and an eBird report of one at an **Ashtabula** farm on 09 Sep (Sean Artman). One was found dead in **Mahoning** on 06 Oct (Ben Morrison).

**Wild Turkey:** Reported in 34 counties, with dates throughout the period. Hens with poults were seen in **Hancock** (Robert Sams) and **Trumbull** (David and Judy Hochadel), both on 04 Aug. There were many counts in the teens and a few exceeded 20; the high count was 40 near Grafton, **Lorain**, on 18 Nov (Geoff Winningham).

**Red-throated Loon:** At least 12 were sighted, all in Nov, in contrast to only four in the fall of 2008. About half of the reports were from Lake Erie (**Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, and **Lake**, m. obs.), and inland reports were from as far south as Caesar Creek, where one was found 19 Nov (Jason Cade). The only count exceeding three was 13 on the 23 Nov aerial survey of Lake Erie (Keith Lott).

**Common Loon:** Reports came from almost 30 counties throughout the state. A single bird in breeding plumage flew past Headlands on 25 Aug (Ray Hannikman); there were scattered reports in Sep and Oct, but as usual most of the sightings were in Nov. Kevin Lott reported 300 on Lake Erie north of downtown Lorain

during the 24 Nov aerial survey, and more than 1,000 total on the lake for that day and 23 Nov combined. The high inland count of over 400 was at Caesar Creek on 19 Nov (Jason Cade).

**Pacific Loon:** One was reported in a large flock of Common Loons off Rocky River Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 19 Nov. The record was not accepted by the OBRC because the majority of the committee believed that the reported details did not rule out other species.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** These were reported from 41 counties, starting with presumed breeders on 01 Aug in several locations. Many reports were from the Lake Erie marshes but most of the birds were found at inland sites. The high count was 55 at the **Hardin** wetlands on 09 Oct (Randy Shonkwiler).

**Horned Grebe:** This species, like Pied-billed Grebe, was widely distributed. The earliest report was of a single bird at Caesar Creek on 29 Sep (Laura Keene). Keith Lott reported 221 on Lake Erie between Cleveland and Conneaut on the 05 Nov aerial survey, and the highest inland count was 36 on 18 Nov at Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware** (Bill Shively).

**Red-necked Grebe:** A single bird was reported on 14 Nov at Camp Luther, **Ashtabula** (Jeffrey Miller). On 28 Nov, one was at Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland** (Gary Cowell and Su Snyder) and two at Cowan Lake, **Clinton** (Bob Powell). There were solo sightings on Lake Erie near Conneaut on several Nov dates, so it is hard to know how many individuals were actually seen.

**Eared Grebe:** Two birds were seen at Bressler Reservoir, **Allen**, on five dates between 18 Oct and 22 Nov (Rick Asamoto).

***Aechmophorus* sp.:** An individual of this genus was reported at Lake Rockwell, **Portage**, on 26 Nov (Karin Tanquist and Pat McCoy). The observers were unable to determine whether it was a Western or Clark's Grebe, and their documentation was accepted by the OBRC at the genus level.

**American White Pelican:** In contrast to 2008's multiple reports, only one was seen this year. This bird, reported 21 Aug at Grand Lake St. Mary's, **Mercer**, was apparently a straggler from the six reported there in Aug, 2008, as at least one had been seen intermittently during the intervening year (Jill Bowers).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** These were reported in small numbers statewide throughout the period. The highest counts by land-bound observers were 753 on the 21 Nov Kelleys' Island survey (Tom and Paula Bartlett) and approximately 1,700 flying southward over the City of Delaware water treatment plant, **Delaware**, on 17 Oct (Bill Shively). The aerial Lake Erie survey counted over 11,000 between Toledo and Cleveland on 14 Oct (Keith Lott).

**American Bittern:** The three sightings reported directly to *The Ohio Cardinal* were of single birds 02 Sep at Mentor Lagoons, **Lake** (Ray Hannikman and Jerry Talkington); 27 Sep at Ellis Lake Wetlands, **Warren** (Mike Busam); and 27 Oct along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake** (Jerry

Talkington and Suzanne Wagner). Sightings from other sources included one at each of ONWR on 02 Aug (Ed Pierce, m. obs.); Highbanks Metro Park, **Delaware**, on 29 Aug (Matt Brooker); ONWR on 12 Sep (Claire Britton); a **Geauga** yard on 28 Sep (Inga Schmidt); and in western **Richland** on 17 Oct and 22 Nov (Albert L. Troyer).

**Least Bittern:** Two were found 02 Aug in ONWR (Ed Pierce, m. obs.). Single birds were at Ira Road in CVNP on 03 Aug (Tom and Mary Ann Romito), at Cedar Point on 25 Aug (Elliot Tramer), and in **Delaware** on 27 Aug (Al La Sala). At least one was often seen at Conneaut from mid-Jul to 19 Aug (Craig Holt, m. obs.).

**Great Blue Heron:** These were reported statewide throughout the period. Most reports were of five or fewer birds, though there were many counts in double digits. The high count was 123 on 19 Sep ONWR census (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**Great Egret:** This species was widely reported from the beginning of the period through Oct, with a few Nov sightings. More than 800 were counted on the 11 Aug ONWR survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

**Snowy Egret:** Almost all of the sightings were in the lakeside marshes of **Erie**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, and **Sandusky**. The high count of 30 was at ONWR on 11 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Two were seen in Winton Woods County Park, **Hamilton**, on 27 Sep (John Marvin) and one was at Shawnee Lookout on the same date (Joe Kappa). The last was seen near the ONWR Visitor Center on 13 Oct (Randy Shonkwiler).

**Little Blue Heron:** Single immature birds were seen 12 Aug at Lake Logan, **Hocking** (James Fry); 15 Aug at ONWR (Doug Overacker); 24 Aug at Pickerington Ponds (Su Snyder); and 29 Aug at Three Creeks Metro Park, **Franklin** (Dave Slager). The Lake Logan bird was seen repeatedly until 11 Sep, on which date two were present (m. obs.). There were several sightings at Pickerel Creek in Aug and Sep, and an adult was seen at Three Creeks Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 13 Sep (Kim and Ed Dolgin). The only count exceeding one was of five at ONWR on 06 Aug (Charles Crawford).

**Cattle Egret:** Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik watched eight leave the Turning Point Island roost, **Erie**, at dawn on 21 Aug. Three were in **Sandusky** on 24 Aug (Su Snyder). Singles were found in **Harrison, Knox, Lake, Montgomery**, and **Richland** (m. obs.) until the last in **Holmes** on 20 Nov (Paul Hershberger).

**Green Heron:** These were reported in 38 widely distributed counties. Most reports were of one or two birds, but Laura Keene found 20 at Englewood Preserve, **Montgomery**, on 08 Aug and Bill Jones found the same number at Mill Creek on 21 Aug. The latest was 08 Nov at the Cleveland Flats, **Cuyahoga** (Wes Hatch).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Most of the reports were of multiple birds. Two to four were present from mid-Aug to mid-Sep at Mill Creek (Bill Jones), and Craig Holt said they were, "...a constant presence at Conneaut 8/27-11/10". The high count of 20 at ONWR on 14 Aug (Kenn Kaufman), and reports came from ten counties in addition to the three noted.

**Black Vulture:** As would be expected, almost all of the reports were from the southern half of the state. **Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Preble**, and **Warren** each had several sightings, and one or two reports came from 13 other counties. The small northeastern population was represented by four in Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**, on 09 Sep (Gary Cowell) plus several sightings in **Holmes** (m. obs.). The high count was 70 at a roost in Hueston Woods on 27 Nov (Jay Stenger, m. obs.).

**Turkey Vulture:** This species was reported from almost 70 counties. Seventy-five presumed residents were at Hoover Reservoir, **Franklin**, on 22 Aug (Dave Slager). Migration produced much larger numbers. Elliot Tramer wrote about **Lucas**, "A stupendous flight took place over the Toledo area on October 15. It was a miserable, drizzly, cold day with a low cloud ceiling – hardly good weather for a raptor flight, or so I thought. I counted 1,287 vultures with very limited viewing time... [and] Steve Stockford counted over 3,000 at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark (OOPM) that day."

**Osprey:** Reports were too plentiful to detail all of them, good news for those who remember the Osprey's plight during the DDT period. Most of the sightings, which were from 34 widely-dispersed counties, were of one or two birds, but a few larger concentrations were reported. For instance, Ken Ostermiller saw six at Pickerington Ponds on 01 Aug; Bob Herp noted an apparent family of five in Parkman, **Geauga**, on 02 Aug; and Jay Stenger's party saw six at Shawnee Lookout on 04 Oct. The latest report was of

one at the Upper Sandusky Reservoir, **Wyandot**, on 21 Nov (Josh Muchow), three weeks after the penultimate season sighting.

**Mississippi Kite:** Gerry Klug reported seeing one flying over Toledo, **Lucas**, on 30 Oct. The OBRC accepted the record from his detailed description of the event.

**Bald Eagle:** Almost 40 counties were noted in the reports, with seemingly every major body of water hosting one or more birds. As expected, the counties near Lake Erie were well represented, but a surprise was the high numbers at Conneaut. Nine were present there on 21 Aug (Craig Holt) and this count equaled the highest from the western Lake Erie marshes. Inland Ohio was also included, with sightings, for example, in **Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Paulding,** and **Wayne**.

**Northern Harrier:** This rare nester was reported 01 Aug from **Richland** (Carl Ball). Reports of one or two birds were scattered throughout the state from mid-Aug to the end of the period. The high count was seven seen on 30 Aug at the **Hardin** wetlands (Richard Counts); this seems early for that area's typical wintering concentration.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One or two were reported in 30 counties. Although the Aug and early Sep sightings probably included resident birds, the high count of seven at Gorman Nature Center, **Richland**, on 11 Oct (Gary Cowell) and the latest report, near Lebanon, **Warren**, on 27 Nov (René and Bill Layne-Magill) more likely represented migrants.

**Cooper's Hawk:** This species was widespread and found in suburban areas as well as in wilder places. Al La Sala discovered recently fledged young in southern **Delaware** on 09 Aug. The high count was 12 at Gorman Nature Center, **Richland**, on 11 Oct (Gary Cowell).

**Northern Goshawk:** A sighting in the Aullwood area, **Montgomery**, on 05 Oct was earlier than usual (*fide* Ed and Bev Neubauer), whereas 14 Nov was a more typical date for the bird that Jeffrey Miller's group saw at Conneaut.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Craig Holt noted that immature birds found during Aug in Ashtabula and Mahoning were "signs of nesting success in far NE Ohio." They were reported from 24 other counties. The nine in CVNP on 12 Sep (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and the five at Caesar Creek on 13 Sep (Jason and Neill Cade) probably included some migrants.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** The sightings of this species were nearly all, as expected, in Aug and Sep, with a few to mid-Oct. Mid-Sep is its peak migration time at this latitude, so the 604 that Elliot Tramer counted in 45 minutes at Oak Openings, **Lucas**, on 16 Sep were right on schedule. The single bird at Buck Creek on 08 Nov was very late (Doug Overacker).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** The 67 counties from which these were reported span the state. There were six Aug reports of "flightless young" submitted to the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (*fide* Matthew Shumar); that category includes fledged young still dependent

on their parents. Most reports were of one or two birds, but the 13 seen on 04 Oct at Shawnee Lookout, **Hamilton**, is an impressive number for a relatively small area (Jay Stenger, m. obs.). The 12 Sep CVNP census found 20 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.), and a hawk-watching trio near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, counted 42 on 01 Nov (Leon Miller, m. obs.).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Three sightings were reported directly to *The Ohio Cardinal*: birds were found in **Hamilton** on 15 Nov (Dan Striley), in **Summit** on 17 Nov (Dwight and Ann Chasar), and in **Highland** on 22 Nov (Dave Slager). At least 10 more were submitted to *The Bobolink* and eBird, from which the earliest sighting and high counts were gleaned. These were, respectively, one bird near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 11 Oct (James F. Yoder and Mark Yoder) and four in **Geauga** on 29 Nov (Matthew Valencic).

**Golden Eagle:** Eight reports came from *The Bobolink*, eBird, and the state listserv. Carl Ball saw one in **Ottawa** on 10 Oct, no doubt southbound, and Cheryl Harner saw one at the Charleston Falls Preserve, **Miami**, on 28 Nov. One was seen in **Holmes** on each of 18 Oct and 01 Nov (Michael Hershberger and Allen Hershberger) and two were southbound in **Tuscarawas** on 20 Oct (Hallie Mason). Two sightings at The Wilds, **Muskingum**, were probably the same bird; one was 27 Nov (Scott Albaugh) and the other 29 Nov (Craig Moore).

**American Kestrel:** There were reports throughout the state during the period, perhaps evidence of a

slight increase in their population. One was noted regularly at Armlerder Park, **Hamilton** (m. obs.). Craig Holt noted six in three Ashtabula townships in August, which he hopes indicates breeding success. Some other high counts were five at Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, on 02 Sep (Su Snyder) and five at Killdeer Plains on 14 Nov (Doug Overacker); the latter were likely settling in for the winter.

**Merlin:** This species was widespread, being reported from 23 counties. The earliest was a pair at Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, on 15 Aug (Haans Petruschke), and the number of sightings increased into Nov. Cemeteries in **Cuyahoga**, **Hamilton**, and **Trumbull** hosted them beginning in early Oct (m. obs.).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Urban and suburban residents were noted in several counties throughout the period (m. obs.). More rural Sandy Ridge Metropark, **Lorain**, and the Boston area of CVNP also had sightings in all four months (m. obs.) Many northern counties had sightings of one or two starting in Sep, though **Preble** and **Clermont** were also represented.

**Yellow Rail:** One was first seen 19 Oct at the farm of Tim Hochstetler, **Holmes**. Dan Sanders first publicized it on the state listserv two days later, and on 22 Oct Gabe Leidy obtained an excellent photograph that, with his accompanying detailed report, made it easy for the OBRC to accept the record. Unfortunately, the bird had lost a leg during hay mowing, though it appeared to be coping with the injury. Gabe's sighting seems to have been the last.

**King Rail:** Single birds were seen at Winous Point on 20 Aug (Robert Sams) and Navarre on 24 Aug (BSBO).

**Virginia Rail:** These were seen on 03 Aug at Killbuck Marsh and 03 Oct at Headlands (both Dave Slager and Ben Warner). BSBO had multiple sightings at Navarre in Aug and Sep. Brad Sparks found three along the Mentor Marsh Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 17 Oct, and the last report was of one at Ira Road in CVNP on 02 Nov (Tom and Mary Ann Romito).

**Sora:** Up to five birds were regular at Conneaut in August (Craig Holt, m. obs.) and one was seen at Mill Creek on many dates into Sep (Bill Jones). There were single sightings in six other counties, and the latest were on 03 Oct at widely separated Mentor Marsh, **Lake** (Chris Pierce), and Fernald Nature Preserve, **Hamilton** (John Marvin).



*Due to an unfortunate encounter while its Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, field was being mowed, this Yellow Rail lost a leg. The bird was seen for several days, including on 21 Oct, when Gabe Leidy obtained this close photograph.*

**Common Moorhen:** A family of both parents and four recently fledged young graced Killbuck Marsh on 03 Aug (Dave Slager). Up to four were seen several times at ONWR between 06 Aug and 23 Sep (m. obs.), and Killdeer Plains and Big Island also had multiple Sep sightings. The latest report, by a wide margin, was of one near Killbuck Marsh on 06 Nov (Bruce Glick).

**American Coot:** These were reported from almost 40 counties throughout glaciated Ohio; sightings spanned the whole reporting period. Sites in **Clark** and **Mahoning** had 100 to 200 on several days. Approximately 1,200 were counted 24 Oct at Cedar Point (Elliot Tramer) and on 16 Nov at Wellington Reservoir, **Lorain** (Su Snyder), and the high count of 1,650 was at Rocky Fork Lake, **Highland**, on 21 Nov (Robert Foppe).

**Sandhill Crane:** The few sightings reported directly to *The Ohio Cardinal* included the earliest and latest. The 24 that Su Snyder found on Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, on 02 Aug included the local nesting pair, and the 110 she counted flying over Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, on 28 Nov was only two fewer than last year's high count at that site. Fourteen other counties were represented in reports to eBird and the state listserv. These included two adults and a juvenile at Aquilla Wildlife Area, **Geauga**, on 02 Aug (Andrew Morrison) and the period's high count of 207 along the Great Miami River near Middletown, **Butler**, on 27 Nov (Ben Britton).

**Black-bellied Plover:** The earliest record was from Conneaut, a single

bird on 02 Aug (Craig Holt, Mark Vass). Up to eight birds were found during that period in 13 other counties. The high count was 16, on the 11 Aug ONWR survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), and the latest report was of seven on the 01 Nov ONWR census (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**American Golden-Plover:** The first report was from ONWR on 14 Aug (Kenn Kaufman) and the last was of five in Perrysburg, **Wood**, on 28 Oct (Claire Sutton). The high count was 27 at Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Wayne**, on 06 Sep (Ken Ostermiller); they were seen there on many dates between 15 Aug and 03 Oct (m. obs.).

**Semipalmated Plover:** These were reported from 25 counties from 01 Aug at Pickerel Creek (m. obs.) to 02 Nov at Magee Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Tom's survey group also had the high count of 45, at ONWR on 11 Sep.

**Piping Plover:** Matthew Studebaker found one at Conneaut on 22 Aug. Laura Keene quickly posted the sighting and her photographs, but the bird was not seen after 23 Aug. The record has been accepted by the OBRC.

**Killdeer:** This species was reported nearly everywhere that boasted mudflats or short grass; more than 60 counties were included and sightings spanned the reporting period. Some high counts include 400 to 500 at Englewood Preserve, **Montgomery**, on several Aug dates (m. obs.); over 1,000 at Funk Bottoms on 15 Aug (James F. Yoder); and 250 at Buck Creek on 18 Oct (Doug Overacker).

**American Avocet:** This year's 32 sightings stand in great contrast to the four in 2008, which were all in **Lake** and **Ashtabula**. Conneaut did have one or two on several dates between 01 Aug and 18 Sep (m. obs.), and other northern sites included Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, on 27 Aug (Darlene Friedman); ONWR on several Aug dates (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.); and Winous Point in Sep and Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). They were also found as far from Lake Erie as Acton Lake in Hueston Woods on 03 Sep (Laura Keene, m. obs.); Caesar Creek on 21 Sep (Rick Asamoto); and the three at the new Grange Insurance Audubon Center, **Franklin**, on 26 and 27 Sep (m. obs.). Three at Clear Fork Reservoir on 03 Aug were only the second **Richland** record of the species (Gary Cowell, Jr., m. obs.).



More American Avocets were reported in Ohio this fall than in previous years, and records came from throughout the state. Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, hosted these four individuals on 19 Aug (photographed by Ethan Kistler), and the peak count here was 20 individuals a few weeks later.



The high count was 20 at Conneaut on 07 Sep (Chris Pierce) and the latest appearance was 01 Nov at Mosquito Lake (Craig Holt).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The reports were spread among more than 30 counties, from the 22 individuals found at Cowan Lake, **Clinton**, on 02 Aug (Larry Gara) to one at the Grand Lake St. Marys hatchery, **Auglaize**, on 27 Oct (John Hall). The Cowan Lake sighting was also the highest count.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The earliest reports were on 01 Aug: There were 44 at Englewood Reserve, **Montgomery**, on 01 Aug (Rick Asamoto) and small numbers at three other sites. Englewood had double-digit numbers on several other dates (m. obs.), as did Ayers Dairy Farm and adjoining land near Perrysville, **Ashland** (Gary Cowell). Mill Creek had the last report, of one on 01 Nov, at ONWR (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** These were seen through almost the whole period, with the last report coming from Conneaut on 23 Nov (Craig Holt). The high count was 100 at Pickerel Creek on 26 Aug (Ken Ostermiller) and, as is normal, other western Lake Erie marshes had sightings as well. Inland sightings included three in Englewood, **Montgomery**, on 02 Aug (Larry Gara); 14 near Shreve, **Wayne**, on 24 Oct (Su Snyder); and one or two at various sites in **Auglaize, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Marion, and Paulding**.

**Willet:** All but one of the reports were of single birds. Conneaut, which generally has reliable shorebird habitat and regular observers, had many

sightings between 02 Aug and 15 Sep including two birds on 07 Sep (Chris Pierce, m. obs.). ONWR had reports on 01 and 18 Aug and 10, 11, and 20 Sep (m. obs.). The only inland report was from Blanchard Landing, **Hancock**, on 04 Aug (Robert Sams).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** This species, like Greater Yellowlegs, was found most often and in the largest numbers in the western Lake Erie marshes. ONWR had 250 on 10 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Representative inland sightings include one individual on the Great Miami River in Fairfield, **Butler**, on 13 Sep (Mike Busam and Charlie Saunders); up to 20 and Englewood Preserve, **Montgomery**, until 08 Nov (m. obs.); and up to 10 at Pickerington Ponds from Aug until 24 Oct (Dave Slager, m. obs.). The latest report was of one at Caesar Creek on 11 Nov (Bob Powell).

**Upland Sandpiper:** The first of the season flew over Funk Bottoms on 01 Aug (James E. Yoder, m. obs.). The one found on the 04 Aug ONWR survey (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) may have stayed for the many observers who reported one there on 15 Aug. At 3:16 a.m. on 30 Aug, Dave Slager's automated recorder caught a flight call over Columbus. Later that same day, one was on the sand flats of Conneaut, an unusual habitat for the species (Gabe Leidy). The latest report was of one more characteristically in a newly mown field, in Valley City, **Medina**, on 17 Sep (Gabe Leidy).

**Whimbrel:** The first sighting of the period was at Buck Creek on 05 Aug (Rick Asamoto). One was at Conneaut on 11 Aug (Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner) and one flew over

that site on 22 Aug (m. obs.). Clyde Witt found one there on 11 Sep and at ONWR on 20 Sep, and one just to the west of Huron harbor, **Erie**, on 19 and 20 Sep was seen by many who attended the Midwest Birding Symposium.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** One was seen at Pickerel Creek from 18 to 24 Aug (m. obs.). The 11 Sep ONWR survey found two (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). On 26 and 27 Oct, one was at the Grand Lake St. Mary's fish hatchery, **Auglaize** (*fide* Bill Whan, John Hall), and two flew past John Pogacnik's lakeshore waterbird survey site in **Lake**. The latest was at ONWR on 05 Nov (Elliot Tramer).

**Marbled Godwit:** This species is usually more common here than Hudsonian Godwit, but this fall there were fewer sightings of the marbled. One was at Pickerel Creek on 18 Aug (Laura Keene) and two on 21 Aug (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik); one of them could have tarried to be seen there 01 and 02 Sep (David Vander Pluym, m. obs.). Winous Point surveys found one on 21 and 23 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The last, and southernmost, report was of two at Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**, on 05 Oct (Charlie Bombaci).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Up to 10 were seen 02 to 29 Aug at Conneaut (m. obs.); the latest sighting was there, as well—one bird on 15 Oct (Craig Holt). Single birds were found at Hueston Woods on 18 Aug (David Russell), Caesar Creek on 31 Aug (Frank Frick), and ONWR on 10 and 11 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Seven were at Trish's Beach, **Lorain**, on 16 Aug (Mike Sandy) and four were at Berlin

Reservoir, **Mahoning**, on 14 Sep (Ben Morrison).

**Red Knot:** Many observers found two early juveniles at Pickerel Creek on 24 to 26 Aug. One or two individuals were seen at Conneaut 23 Aug to 12 Sep (m. obs.). Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, had one on 01, 06, and 07 Sep (Kenn Kaufman, Rob and Sandy Harlan, Laura Keene).

**Sanderling:** This species, too, was fairly common at Conneaut; it was seen often between 02 Aug and 10 Oct (m. obs.), with a high count of 22 on 05 Sep (Laura Keene). Far to the south, Lola Irvin and Terry Hines saw two juveniles at East Fork on 01 Sep. One was seen 19 and 20 Sep and 17 and 24 Oct at Buck Creek, which probably means that two or three individuals were there (Doug Overacker). Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, hosted the latest, one on 13 Nov (Kenn Kaufman).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** This species was found at practically all of the shorebird sites; 29 counties had sightings. The high count was 400 at Winous Point on 13 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and the latest report was near Shreve, **Wayne**, on 05 Nov (Bruce Glick and Robert Hershberger).

**Western Sandpiper:** The earliest was seen 14 Aug at Conneaut (Gary Cowell), and one was at Pickerel Creek on two late Aug dates (Kenn Kaufman, Brad Sparks). One or two frequented the north end of Hoover Reservoir between 11 and 14 Sep (m. obs.) and three were at ONWR on 16 Sep (Kenn Kaufman). The last report was from ONWR on 22 Sep (*fide* Aaron Bartley)

**Little Stint:** A possible juvenile of this species was reported 19 Aug at Conneaut but could not be relocated on subsequent days. The OBRC has not received documentation of this sighting.

**Least Sandpiper:** This species was, as usual, widely reported throughout the period. The high count of 300 was at ONWR on 11 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and there were many sightings in other Lake Erie marshes and at Conneaut. Representative inland counties with sightings included **Auglaize, Clermont, Darke, Franklin, Hamilton, Paulding, Union,** and **Trumbull.**

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** One or two individuals were found at ONWR from 21 Aug to 22 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and at Conneaut from 05 Aug to 12 Sep (m. obs.). Oct sightings were at Magee Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and Conneaut (Craig Holt). The largest count was eight, at Pickerel Creek on 23 Aug (Andy Sewell). The latest sighting, which was six weeks after the next latest, was of six at the Woods Road Wetland, **Darke,** on 01 Nov (Regina Schieltz).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** One or two were seen at Conneaut from mid-Aug to 30 Sep (m. obs.). The high count of four was at ONWR on 23 Sep (Kenn Kaufman). The only reports from the southern half of the state were at Englewood Preserve, **Montgomery,** on 09 Aug (Rick Asamoto) and Armleder Park, **Hamilton,** on 05 Oct (Jonathan Frodge and Samantha Sayre). The one at Magee Marsh on 27 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) was the latest reported.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** This species was widely dispersed, with sightings in **Clermont, Clinton, Marion, Franklin, Hancock, Montgomery, Ottawa,** and **Preble** being representative. High counts included 100 at Pickerel Creek on 22 Aug (Ken Ostermiller); 125 at ONWR on 11 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.); and 49 at the Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne,** on 17 Oct (Su Snyder). A very late individual at Shreve Fish Pond on 28 Nov was the last (Su Snyder).

**Purple Sandpiper:** One on the outer breakwall of Cleveland Harbor provided a treat for BSBO's cruise participants on 15 Nov. Another just made this report by appearing at Headlands on 30 Nov (Bruce Glick and Robert Hershberger).

**Dunlin:** There were four early sightings between 15 Aug at Pickerel Creek (Doug Overacker) and mid-Sep. There were many sightings from all over the state from 20 Sep through the end of the period. The 75 at the Woods Road Wetlands, **Darke** (Regina Schieltz) and the 65 at Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding,** on 31 Oct (Doug and Micki Dunakin) were among the highest inland counts, though small to moderate numbers were also seen in **Auglaize, Darke, Franklin,** and several southwestern counties. The high count was 1,200 on 13 Nov at ONWR (Elliot Tramer).

**Curlew Sandpiper:** A juvenile was reported at Conneaut on 12 Sep. The OBRC has not received documentation of this sighting.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The season opened on 01 Aug with one at Pickerington Ponds (Bernie Master); five at

Englewood Preserve, Montgomery (John Moore); and 20 at ONWR (Brad Sparks). They had, of course, begun arriving in July. The high count was 35 at ONWR on 10 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). One at each of Caesar Creek (Jay Lehman) and Buck Creek (Doug Overacker) in early Oct were the only sightings south of the Columbus area. The latest reports (27 Oct) were shared by Magee Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and the Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne** (Su Snyder).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** The first report was on 03 Aug from ONWR, and one or two were seen there on several dates to 24 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Berlin Reservoir had one on 28 Aug (Ben Morrison), which may have stayed to be the one seen 07 Sep (m. obs.). One was at Conneaut on 18 Sep (Craig Holt) and one at the Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne**, on 20 Sep (Kevin Kline and Dennis Kline). These records are in contrast to those of 2008, which had only one sighting, in Sep.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** There were double-digit reports from ONWR and Pickerel Creek on several Aug dates and single-digit reports from there and other central and northern sites through mid-Sep. The only sightings after Sep were of single birds at ONWR on 04 Oct (*fide* Aaron Bartley); Fostoria Reservoir, **Hancock**, on 20 Oct (Betty Hardesty); and Mill Creek on 24 Oct (Bill Jones).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Two rather early birds were at ONWR on 01 Aug (Brad Sparks) and another frequented Pickerel Creek 15 to 18 Aug (m. obs.). As usual, sightings increased significantly in mid-Sep,

with many double-digit counts at Magee Marsh, ONWR, and Winous Point well into Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Small numbers were seen away from Lake Erie in **Darke, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Mahoning, Montgomery**, and **Wayne**. The high count of 61 was at ONWR on 01 Nov (*fide* Aaron Bartley), and there was only one other Nov report before the last sighting, at Mill Creek on 22 Nov (Bill Jones).

**Wilson's Snipe:** One or two were seen almost daily at Conneaut from mid-Aug to 09 Sep (Craig Holt, m. obs.). They were regular until 24 Sep at ONWR and until 11 Oct at Winous Point (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and until the end of the period at Mill Creek (Bill Jones). There were single sightings at other scattered sites as well. The high count of 21 was at the Shreve Fish Pond, **Wayne**, on 26 Sep (Su Snyder).

**American Woodcock:** Springville Marsh had both the earliest and latest sightings of the period, with one seen there for three weeks starting 23 Aug and two on 07 Nov (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Other single birds were seen in **Hamilton, Hancock, Lorain, Mahoning, Ottawa, Paulding, Summit, Warren, Wood**, and **Wyandot**.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Many observers enjoyed one that stayed at Pickerel Creek for several days in mid-Aug. Though ONWR and Conneaut also had sightings, more reports were from inland counties including **Darke** and **Montgomery**. The high count of 20 was at the Grand Lake St. Mary's hatchery, **Auglaize**, on 01 Oct (Larry Gara) and the last sighting, on 18 Oct, was also there (Ned Keller, Rick Asamoto).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** The species was surprisingly numerous this year. One was seen at Pickerel Creek 15 to 30 Aug (m. obs.). One or two were seen on several dates in Sep at ONWR (m. obs.) and one or two graced Conneaut 02 to 04 Oct (m. obs.). Slightly inland, Laura Gooch recorded one at Lake View Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**, on 11 Oct. Farther south, John Herman found two at Clear Fork Reservoir, **Richland**, on 29 Sep, for **Richland's** second record.

**Red Phalarope:** These, too, were seen at several locations, all on or quite near Lake Erie. One was at ONWR on 11 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Two immature birds at Conneaut on 30 Sep (Craig Holt) were apparently replaced by two or three different ones 02 to 06 Oct (m. obs.). A flyby at Headlands on 07 Oct (Emil Bacik) and one along the Mentor Marsh Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 08 Oct (Jerry Talkington, m. obs.) could have been the same individual. The latest was another Headlands flyby on 06 Nov (Jerry Talkington).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** An unusual inland record was a bird seen at Caesar Creek on 10, 13, and 16 Oct (Ruhikant Meetei, m. obs.). The BSBO boat trip off Cleveland on 08 Nov produced brief views of one (m. obs.), and one was seen at Camp Luther, **Ashtabula**, on 14 Nov (Jeffrey Miller). John Pogacnik's Lakeshore waterbird surveys in **Lake** found one on both 20 and 29 Nov.

**Sabine's Gull:** John Pogacnik saw one on his 30 Aug survey in **Lake**. Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik found one at Huron Harbor, **Erie**, on 17 Oct and a rather late one 27 Nov at the Eastlake power plant in **Lake**.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** These were seen at Buck Creek from 02 Aug to the end of the period, with a high count of 100 on 15 Nov (Doug Overacker). Sightings along Lake Erie started in earnest in late Sep with a few thousand seen on the 15 Nov BSBO cruise (Kenn Kaufman) and at ONWR, Metzger Marsh, and Huron harbor on several dates. No large flocks rivaling the one of 50,000 at Huron last year were reported. Some high inland counts included 200 at Lake Loramie State Park, **Shelby**, on 31 Oct (Brad Sparks); 170 at East Fork on 01 Nov (Paul Krusling and Joe Kappa); and 300 at Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland**, on 05 and 10 Nov (Robert Hershberger).

**Little Gull:** Single birds were seen 11 Nov at Conneaut (Ray Hannikman); 14 Nov at Camp Luther, **Ashtabula** (Jeffrey Miller); 27 Nov in **Lake** (John Pogacnik); and 28 Nov at the Eastlake power plant, **Lake** (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik).

**Laughing Gull:** One was at Huron Harbor, **Erie**, on 21 Aug (Gabe Leidy and Emil Bacik). Inland, single birds were at Indian Lake, **Logan**, on 30 Sep (Dan Sanders) and East Fork on 13 Oct (Rob Edelin and Virginia Fantetti). Pleasant Hill Lake, **Richland**, hosted a juvenile 21 through 24 Sep (John Herman).

**Franklin's Gull:** These were reported at several inland sites from 15 Sep at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty) to 29 Nov at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker) and East Fork (Robert Foppe). Ten were at Hoover Reservoir, **Franklin**, on 28 Sep (Dave Slager), and up to four were at East Fork between 13 and 31 Oct (m. obs.).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Many thousands were reported along Lake Erie throughout the period. Reports came from all over the state, and some high inland counts include 2,000 at Lex House, **Richland**, on 15 Oct (Carl Ball); 2,000 at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 20 Oct (Craig Holt); and 800 to 1,000 at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on several dates (m. obs.).



*Franklin's Gulls are annual in Ohio in numbers that reflect wind patterns coming from their typical Great Plains migration corridor. Dave Slager identified 10 Franklin's Gulls, including the two he photographed above, on 28 Sep in the **Franklin** portion of Hoover Reservoir.*

**Herring Gull:** A few counts in the hundreds were reported from several sites on the western Lake Erie shore, though most counts there were below 25. Numbers were higher from Lorain east, with several hundred seen at almost every point along the Cleveland shoreline during the 08 and 15 Nov BSBO cruises. Conneaut, too, had several counts above 300 (m. obs.) Inland sightings were widespread and most were of small numbers, but 150 to 700 were at the Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, on several Oct and early Nov dates (m. obs.) and more than 100 were at Evans Lake, **Mahoning**, on 20 Oct (Craig Holt).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Counts at Conneaut grew from one on 23 Aug to seven on 10 Nov (Craig Holt, m. obs.). Small numbers were observed at other Lake Erie shore locations from early Sep through the end of the period. The only inland report was of two at the **Ottawa** landfill on 04 Nov (Kenn Kaufman).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** About half of the reports were from inland water bodies, with multiple sightings of one to six at Findlay Reservoir, **Hancock**, between 16 Oct and 03 Nov (m. obs.) and a high count of 16 on 27 Oct (Betty Hardesty). The southernmost were at Pleasant Hill Lake, **Ashland**, on 30 Sep (Su Snyder, m. obs.) and at Clear Fork Reservoir, **Richland**, on several dates in Sep and Oct (Gary Cowell, John Herman). One or two were at Conneaut between late Aug and late Oct (m. obs.) and three were at the Avon Lake power plant, **Lorain**, on 21 Nov (Craig Caldwell).

**Caspian Tern:** These were reported from 25 counties statewide, with a high count of 225 at Winous Point on 12 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The highest inland counts were of 32 at Knox Lake, **Knox**, on 01 Aug (Charlie Bombaci) and 21 at Caesar Creek on 01 Sep (Larry Gara). The latest report was of three at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, on 21 Oct (Kenn Kaufman).

**Black Tern:** Surprisingly, the sole report from the western marshes, their only Ohio breeding area, was of a single bird at Pickerel Creek on 22 Aug (Chris Pierce). Migrants were seen at several inland sites, with notable

counts of 25 at Buck Creek on 18 Aug (Rick Asamoto) and 35 at Acton Lake, Hueston Woods on the same date (David Russell). The three Sep reports were of four at Big Island on the 7 Sep (Charlie Bombaci); five seen over Fairport Harbor, **Lake**, on the 29 Sep (Ray Hannikman, m. obs.) and one at Indian Lake, **Logan**, on the 30 Sep (Dan Sanders). There were no Oct or Nov sightings.

**Common Tern:** These were seen in small numbers statewide on many dates from Aug to mid-Oct. The high count overall was 500 at Magee Marsh on 08 Oct (Michael Harvey), and the highest inland count was 18 at Buck Creek on 07 Sep (Doug Overacker). Craig Holt noted “NONE!!” in his many visits to Conneaut, writing, “...to not see a single one was very alarming.” (A total of four was seen on two visits by other observers, though.) The last sighting was on the 15 Nov BSBO cruise near Cleveland.

**Forster’s Tern:** There were many Aug reports of this species and progressively fewer through Sep into early Oct. In addition to the Lake

Erie sites, nine inland counties were represented. The highest count of 320 was on 21 Oct at Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas** (Kenn Kaufman). There were no reports between the one to seven individuals seen at various parts of ONWR on 01 Nov (Aaron Bartley) and the last of the season, a very late bird at the Delaware water plant, **Delaware**, on 27 Nov (Bill Shively).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Many participants enjoyed the one found off Cleveland during the 15 Nov BSBO cruise. John Pogacnik saw one fly by his **Lake** survey station on 29 Nov.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Three were reported: on the 08 Nov BSBO cruise, **Cuyahoga**; at Bayshore Power Plant, **Lucas**, on 11 Nov; and at Headlands on 23 Nov. The OBRC has not received documentation of these sightings.

**Long-Tailed Jaeger:** One was reported from **Lake** on 30 Aug. The OBRC has not received documentation of this sighting.



*Caspian Terns appear in fall in Ohio in small flocks, and these often include parents and young; the young birds are easily identified by the dark patterning in their back feathers, and many will continue begging for food from their parent during migration. These two individuals were part of a group of nine that Dave Slager photographed in **Franklin** on 03 Aug.*

**jaeger sp:** Nancy Anderson narrowed a 27 Nov sighting off Sims Park, **Cuyahoga**, to either Pomarine or Parasitic.

**Rock Pigeon:** These were reported from almost 60 counties, urban and rural. Most reports were uncounted or of small numbers, but the 400 at the OSU's Waterman Farm, **Franklin**, on 13 Nov must have been quite a sight (Dave Slager).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Two were reported from Celina, **Mercer**, on 27 Oct. Another was reported to have remained from summer to at least 12 Aug near Baltic, **Coshocton**. Though it appears that a small breeding colony is present in Celina, and perhaps another in the **Holmes/Coshocton** area, Eurasian Collared-Dove is still a review species and the OBRC has not received documentation of these sightings.

**Mourning Dove:** This species was reported from 70 counties. Some of the large flocks included almost 400 at the **Hardin** wetlands on 30 Aug (Richard Counts); 400 in **Hancock** on 08 Sep (Betty Hardesty); and 200 at Pickerington Ponds on 09 Oct (Dave Slager).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Most reports were of single birds, but five were counted at Barrs Mills Marsh, **Tuscarawas**, on 15 Aug (Ed Schlabach). Surveys found two at Kelleys' Island on both 16 Aug and 17 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and in CVNP on 12 Sep (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.); a few other sites also had two. There were several sightings (or "hearings") at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker) and Shawnee Lookout

(m. obs.). The latest sighting was at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, on 26 Oct (Martin Ackerman).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** There were 13 records, three of which were a few days apart at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain** (m. obs.). Three were at Barrs Mills Marsh, **Tuscarawas**, on 15 Aug (Ed Schlabach). The last report was on 18 Sep at East Harbor State Park, **Erie** (William Jackson).

**Barn Owl:** Daniel Kramer banded 14 in three nests in Aug and five in one nest on 18 Oct, all in **Holmes**. One or two were seen or heard on other Amish farms in **Wayne** and **Holmes** on 13 Sep (Jay Lehman), 14 Sep (Wes Hatch), 26 Oct (Laura Keene), and 26 and 30 Nov (Perry Yoder and Michael Hershberger, respectively). Steve Jones last heard the one resident near his job site in East Liberty, **Logan**, on 11 Sep.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** The reports were distributed throughout the state and during the whole period. There were several reports of single birds at each of Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Leo Deininger); Mill Creek (Bill Jones); Kelleys' Island (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.); and Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett). Up to three were found on the OWU campus on many dates (m. obs.)

**Great Horned Owl:** One or two were regular at Springville Marsh throughout the period (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, from late Sep to early Nov (*vide* BRAS). One was seen 28 Aug, 11 Sep, and 15 Nov at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf and Eric Burkholder). They were reported from 16 other counties as well.



**Barred Owl:** There were many reports of calling birds at Camp Berry, **Hancock**, and at several **Hamilton** locations during Aug and a few more at other sites through the end of the period (m. obs.). Three were heard simultaneously in Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, on 07 Sep (*fide* BRAS). One individual, perched only a few feet above the ground, was being mobbed by chickadees and titmice; this was on 23 Nov in Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf). Single reports came from nine counties.

**Long-eared Owl:** The one seen 21 Aug in Salt Fork State Park, **Clermont**, was probably one of our rare nesting birds (Robb Clifford). One at Kelleys' Island was arriving for the winter (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

**Short-eared Owl:** The first arrivals noted were the three found all the way south at Miami Whitewater County Park, **Hamilton**, on 07 Nov (Paul Wharton). One was at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 20 Nov (Kirk Westendorf), 10 were at the **Hardin** Wetlands on 28 Nov (Richard Counts), three were at Killdeer Plains on 29 Nov (Lawrence DeAtley), and another was at Buck Creek the same day (Doug Overacker).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** One was "10 feet up in a beech tree" near Fredericksburg, **Wayne**, on 08 Nov (John Troyer). Jimmie Campbell found one in **Hocking** on 11 Oct. Kelly Williams-Sieg's team banded 37 between 17 Oct and 25 Nov at her research site near Chillicothe, **Ross**. Four were near the Germantown Metropark Nature Center, **Montgomery**, on 13 Nov (John Moore), and Tom Bartlett's survey found one at Kelleys' Island on 21 Nov.

**Common Nighthawk:** The moderate number of single birds seen in Aug probably consisted of nesters, which are quite uncommon now. Migration was underway by 28 Aug, when approximately 100 were seen over Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf and Eric Burkholder). The high count by far was 1,038, south of New Bedford, **Coshocton**, on 03 Sep (Adam H. Yoder, m. obs.). Stragglers were seen 20 Oct at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Laura Gooch); 20 Oct at Oakwoods Nature Preserve, **Hancock** (Robert Sams); and on 24 Oct at New Richmond, **Clermont** (Donald Morse, Jr.).

**Whip-poor-will:** Four were seen in Perrysburg, **Wood**, on 05 Sep (Claire Britton), one was at ONWR on 14 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), and one was perched in a wooded area by the Huron pier, **Erie**, on 10 Oct (Gabe Leidy and Sherrie Duris).

**Chimney Swift:** Swifts, presumably residents and the first migrants, were reported statewide in small numbers well into Oct. Jonathan Frodge watched about 40 mobbing a Peregrine Falcon in **Hamilton** on 11 Aug; the falcon had a full crop and was ignoring them. A concentration of 500 to 700 was seen 23 and 24 Aug at John Sells Middle School, Delaware (Andi and Stephen Wolfe) and about 1,000 were noted at French Park, **Hamilton**, on 25 Sep (Mark Gilsdorf). The latest report of a large flock was of 120 at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, on 19 Oct (Inga Schmidt), and the latest report overall was of five at Mill Creek on 11 Nov (Bill Jones)

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:**

Small numbers were widely seen through September, and the latest report was at Oakwoods Nature Preserve, **Hancock**, on 20 Oct (Robert Sams). Fifteen were at feeders and in a yard in Hamilton, **Butler**, on 08 Aug (John Strathern) and the same number were counted at Springville Marsh on 29 Aug (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Visits to several feeders in **Hancock** produced 37 total on each of 01 and 08 Sep (Betty Hardesty). An albino individual, presumed to be this species, visited several feeders in Bainbridge Township, **Geauga**, between 07 and 15 Sep (Bill Takacs).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Four were reported this year, in large contrast to 2008's single bird. One was reported 14 Oct in **Ashland** (Gary Cowell) and another in Butler, **Richland**, between 14 and 18 Oct (m. obs.). An adult female in Loudonville, **Ashland**, whose presence was first widely known on 20 Oct when Allen Chartier banded it, had apparently been seen by the homeowner since sometime in Sep. It remained at least until 24 Oct (m. obs.). One in Centerville, **Wayne**, between 24 Oct and 09 Nov was banded 29 Oct (Su Snyder, Ken Ostermiller).

**Allen's Hummingbird:** A *Selasphorus* hummingbird began visiting Mae Miller's feeder in Sugarcreek, **Holmes**, in mid-Oct. It was reported to the birding community on 11 Dec, when Allen Chartier banded it and identified it as an Allen's. He posted photographs and measurements the next day. His careful work and detailed report to the OBRC enabled the bird to be accepted as the first state record of the species. Many hundreds of birders saw it before Ms. Miller noted its departure just after Christmas.



*True albino birds — those with no pigmentation in their feathers, skin, and iris — are less frequently encountered than birds with leucism and other forms of altered pigmentation. This Ruby-throated Hummingbird appears to be an albino; the original color image submitted shows pink feet and irises. The bird was photographed from 07 to 14 Sep in Bainbridge, **Geauga**, by Bill Takacs.*

**Belted Kingfisher:** This species was reported from 47 counties and throughout the period.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** These, too, were widely reported Aug through Nov. Some notable counts were 10 at East Fork on 05 Sep (Robert Foppe) and eight in the Station Road area of CVNP on 06 Oct (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Twelve adults and immatures were stashing acorns in the drowned trees along Messner Road in Killbuck Marsh on 27 Oct (Su Snyder). The Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, colony also had as many as 12 (m. obs.). Elliot Tramer noted that they left the Oak Openings area, **Lucas**, in mid-Sep, which he attributed to a poor mast crop there.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** This common species was reported from yards, parks, and rural areas in 61 counties. Multiple stops Oct 19 around Lowellville, **Mahoning**, found 15

(Craig Holt) and a similar effort in **Hancock** found 19 on 24 Nov (Betty Hardesty). Dwight Chasar's census teams counted 108 in CVNP on 12 Sep.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Though this species is primarily seen as a migrant, a few do breed in the extreme northeast corner of the state. The one Craig Holt saw in Monroe Township, **Ashtabula**, on 05 Aug was probably from this population, and was the only Aug sighting. BSBO banded nine migrants at Navarre (double their average count) between 22 Aug and 01 Nov and many were seen throughout the state during that period. The latest report was from John Bryan State Park, **Greene**, on 30 Nov (John Hall).

**Downy Woodpecker:** These were reported statewide and throughout the period. The 12 Sep CVNP census found 113. The high count from a more limited area was 33 at French Creek Reservation, **Lorain**, on 08 Sep (*fide* BRAS).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** As expected, there were fewer reports of this species than of Downy Woodpecker; still, they were noted in 43 counties. John Zahnen saw six, which appeared to be a family group, at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 09 Aug, and six were on a private property in **Highland** on 14 Nov (Paul Krusling).

**Northern Flicker:** A concentration of 20 near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 13 Sep included 10 in one tree (Michael Hershberger). Mark Gilsdorf found 18 in a three-hour trek through Shawnee Lookout on 26 Sep. Many of the 21 counted on Kelleys' Island on 21 Nov were probably migrants from Canada

(Tom Bartlett, m. obs.), but the six which Doug Overacker saw at Buck Creek on the same date could have all been residents.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** There were approximately 270 individual sightings reported. The high count of five was reached on 18 Aug by Clyde Witt and on 06 Oct by Dwight and Ann Chasar, both in the Station Road area of CVNP.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Single birds were reported from more than 20 locations. Dates and places ranged from Magee Marsh on 15 Aug (Carl Ball); through Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, on 31 Aug (Leo Deininger); Alliance, **Stark**, on 11 Sep (Ben Morrison); French Park, **Hamilton**, on 25 Sep (Mark Gilsdorf); to the last at Franchion Lewis Park, **Licking**, on 02 Oct (Mike Smith).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The several Aug reports with fairly high counts probably represented mixes of breeders and migrants. The 10 at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, on the 5 Aug (*fide* BRAS); 15 at Fernald Nature Preserve, **Hamilton**, on the 15 Aug (John and David Marvin); and 12 at Magee Marsh on the 28 Aug (Kenn Kaufman) were typical of these reports. At least 20 in a small area of northeastern **Coshocton** on 26 Sep were notable (Adam H. Yoder). Ten were banded at Navarre, with the last on 12 Oct (BSBO), and the latest noted overall was at Magee Marsh on 24 Oct (Kenn Kaufman).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One that appeared at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga**, on 03 Aug was quite

early (Leo Deininger), as was one at Gahanna Woods, **Franklin**, on 06 Aug (James Holsinger). The next sighting was at Sheldon's Marsh on 23 Aug (Andy Sewell), and the 11 banded at Navarre 27 Aug through 26 Sep spanned their usual migration period (BSBO). The last sighting was in the Landfill Conservation Area, **Hancock**, on 04 Oct (Robert Sams).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Five at Highbanks Metro Park, **Delaware**, on 02 Aug were probably nesters (Dave Slager), and the adults feeding young at Cox Preserve, **Medina**, on 21 Aug surely were (Terri Martincic). Several were seen during Oct in Amish country, with the last being two near Holmesville, **Holmes**, on 24 Oct (Kevin Kline, m. obs.).

**Alder Flycatcher:** The only report was of two juveniles near Apple Creek, **Wayne**, on 29 Aug (Aaron Miller).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Up to six were found in widely separated locations in Aug and Sep, and the last was seen on the 04 Oct ONWR census (*vide* ONWR).

**Least Flycatcher:** Small numbers were found statewide until the last report from New Bedford, **Holmes**, on 08 Oct (Jacob M. Hostetler). Three at Navarre on 01 and 02 Sep were the only sightings there during their long banding season (BSBO).

**Eastern Phoebe:** This widespread, hardy, and human-tolerant species was frequently seen until 03 Nov, when one was seen at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Lorain (*vide* BRAS). The last was a straggler near Layland, **Coshocton**,

on 26 and 27 Nov (Adam H. Yoder). Eighteen were banded at Navarre 06 Aug through 24 Oct (BSBO) and the 12 Sep CVNP census found 66 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

**Say's Phoebe:** One frequented the yard of Ken and Gretchen Beers near Yellow springs, **Greene**, 26 to 29 Nov (m. obs.). Their documentation, which included photographs, was accepted by the OBRC.

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** Kent and Jim Miller and Ben Morrison found one at Headlands on 02 Oct; unfortunately, it was not seen after that day. The record was accepted by the OBRC.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** About 60 sightings of from one to three individuals in Aug and Sep stretched to the latest on 10 Oct at Magee Marsh (Carl Ball).

**Western Kingbird:** One was reported 18 Sep in **Ottawa**. The OBRC has not received documentation of this sighting.

**Eastern Kingbird:** The 16 Aug Kelleys' Island survey found 60, which were probably mostly migrants (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes). Sightings were widespread in Aug and scarce in Sep; the latest was in Sharon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 18 Sep (Charlie Bombaci).

**Northern Shrike:** The first of the season was near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 24 Oct (Timothy Hochstetler). One was present from 02 Nov to the end of the period in Homerville, **Medina** (Greg Emmert, m. obs.). Others were reported on

various Nov dates in **Franklin, Geauga, Mahoning, Ottawa, and Paulding**,

**White-eyed Vireo:** One was singing in Shawnee Lookout on 16 Aug (Susan and Linda Osterhage). A bird club trip to East Fork on 05 Sep found four (Bill Stanley, m. obs.) and the 12 Sep CVNP census counted 12 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The latest was in Doug and Micki Dunakin's yard in **Paulding** on 28 Oct.

**Bell's Vireo:** One of these scarce breeders was heard singing in Springfield, **Clark**, on 17 Aug (Doug Overacker); one was behind the ONWR Visitors Center on 20 Sep (*fide* ONWR); and a very late bird was at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 10 Oct (Ned Keller, m. obs.).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** There were widespread sightings in Aug and Sep and the last individual was seen 18 Oct at Magee Marsh (anon. eBird participant).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** These were reported from over 25 counties. One was singing at Oak Openings, **Lucas**, on 08 Aug (Elliot Tramer). There were several late Oct sightings in northern counties, with the last being seen there on 05 Nov at Veterans Park, **Lake** (Jerry Talkington, m. obs.). The last reported overall was 07 Nov at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Darleen Graham and Deb Hausrauth).

**Warbling Vireo:** No doubt because they are mostly silent in Aug and rather plain all the time, there were few reports early in that month. Migrants were widely noted by Sep, with 26 found during the 12 Sep

CVNP census (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The latest report was quite late, on 24 Oct near Sugarcreek, **Tuscarawas** (Ed Schlabach).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first of these migrants was reported 23 Aug from New Bedford, **Holmes** (Jacob M. Hostetler). One rather confused individual was singing on 26 Sep in **Clermont** (Darlena Graham and Lola Erwin). There were several widely separated reports from mid-Sep until the latest at Van Buren State Park, **Hancock**, on 17 Oct (Lauren Harter).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** The Navarre banding station captured 47 between 23 Aug and 11 Oct (BSBO), 10 were along the Magee Marsh boardwalk on 01 Sep (Dave Vander Pluym, m. obs.), and the 12 Sep CVNP census found 32 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.). The last were seen on 13 Oct in **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty) and near the Magee Marsh Sportsmans Center (Randy Shonkwiler).

**Blue Jay:** Most observers who provided full sighting lists had many encounters throughout the period; 68 counties were represented. The 12 Sep CVNP census counted 356 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.), flocks of 60 were reported from three locations in Sep, and Betty Hardesty found 47 at various **Hancock** sites on 27 Oct.

**American Crow:** This species, like its jay cousin, was ubiquitous. Some notable flocks included 210 at CVNP's Hunt Farm on 12 Sep (Dwight and Ann Chasar), approximately 200 at Doug and Micki Dunakin's property in **Paulding** on 16 Oct, and 110 at Smithville, **Wayne**, on 09 Nov (Leo

Deininger). The prize is shared by Craig Holt, who estimated that 3,000 streamed over his Poland, **Mahoning**, location as dusk approached on 09 Nov and Gary Cowell, who noted approximately 3,500 at the Mansfield Airport and vicinity, **Richland**, on 19 Nov.

**Common Raven:** Single birds were reported 31 Aug in **Cuyahoga**, on 21 Nov in **Harrison**, and on 26 Nov in **Holmes**. The OBRC has not received documentation of these sightings.

**Horned Lark:** Robert Sams saw recently fledged young on 05 Aug in **Hancock**; small numbers in most other Aug reports probably also represented breeders. Definite migrants were noted at Conneaut beginning 21 Aug (Craig Holt) and reports of large flocks began 01 Sep, with 200 near Stonelick Lake, **Clermont** (Bill Doss). Hueston Woods had a flock of 146 on 26 Nov (Jay Stenger).

**Purple Martin:** There were sightings of up to 150 throughout Aug at several locations. As in 2008, the largest concentration was at Nimisilla State Park, **Summit**, with “many 1,000’s” reported on 11 Aug (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and 1,400 on 27 Aug (Gregory Bennett). The last report was of one whom Robert Hershber says “stayed and survived on mealworm handouts...into the winter season” near Maysville, **Wayne**, and was Ohio’s latest record (Atlee Yoder).

**Tree Swallow:** These were reported from 39 counties. The highest counts were of approximately 1,500 at

Pickereel Creek on 23 Aug (Andy Sewell); 2,000 on 07 Sep at the main reservoir and sewage lagoons, **Paulding** (Doug and Micki Dunakin); and 1,500 at Winous Point on 11 Oct (Tom Bartlett and Shane Roberts). The last report was of a single bird in **Hancock** on 03 Nov (Betty Hardesty).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** There were scattered reports until the last on 09 Nov at Fernald Nature Preserve, **Hamilton** (Allan Claybon). Flocks of 75 at Winous Point on 20 Aug (Robert Sams) and 140 on the Great Miami River in Hamilton, **Butler** (Charlie Saunders), were the largest.

**Bank Swallow:** Up to 35 were seen at several, mostly northern, sites until the latest sighting of five on 01 Oct at Pickerington Ponds (Brad Sparks). The highest count was 100 at Pickereel Creek on 24 Aug (Kenn Kaufman).

**Cliff Swallow:** Sightings were mostly of single-digit groups except for a few with 10 to 25 birds and a flock of 93 on 01 Aug near Mt. Eaton, **Wayne** (Aden Yoder). The last were seen 11 Sep at Berlin Reservoir, **Portage** (Laura Dornan).

**Cave Swallow:** One was reported near Conneaut on 14 Nov; the OBRC has not received documentation of this sighting. This is the smallest number reported since the state’s first record in 2005.

**Barn Swallow:** There were multiple reports from throughout the state. Recently fledged young were seen 06 Aug in **Hamilton** (Wayne Wauligman), 09 Aug in **Delaware** (Al

La Sala), and most notably on 07 Nov in **Mahoning** (Michael Hershberger). Concentrations exceeding 100 birds were seen in **Cuyahoga**, **Erie**, **Hancock**, **Holmes**, **Lucas**, **Ottawa**, and **Sandusky** during Aug (m. obs.), and a flock estimated at 500 was in **Paulding** on 07 Sep (Doug and Micki Dunakin). The last was a very late bird at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 25 Nov, which Kirk Westendorf said he “[tried] to turn into a Cave Swallow.”

**Carolina Chickadee:** These were widely noted in the southern three-quarters of the state. Ann Oliver found approximately 20 in her yard and adjoining Rapid Run Park, **Hamilton**, on 27 Sep; 36 were counted at the Cincinnati Nature Center, **Clermont**, on 10 Oct (Bill Stanley, m. obs.) and 80 on the OWU campus on the same day (Sean Williams).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** These were seen across the northern part of the state. The 17 Sep Kelleys’ Island survey found 97 (Tom Bartlett and John Lortz). Numbers at the Ira Road area of CVNP increased to a peak of 32 on 23 Nov (Tom and Mary Ann Romito). The 12 Sep CVNP census found 379 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.).

**[Carolina x Black-capped chickadee]:** Tom Bartlett’s Springville Marsh survey team noted up to four on several dates.

**Tufted Titmouse:** This species was reported throughout the state and

period. The Cincinnati Bird Club found 24 at East Fork on 05 Sep (*vide* Bill Stanley).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Elliot Tramer commented on “a modest invasion this fall.” The earliest noted was a surprise along the Magee Marsh boardwalk on 28 Aug (Kenn Kaufman). Sightings were thin in the south, though the farthest south was at East Fork on 25 Oct (Kirk Westendorf). Claire Britton found eight around Perrysburg, **Wood**, on 21 Nov and Su Snyder counted six in Byers Woods, **Ashland**, on 28 Nov. Most other single observer counts were of one or two.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** These were seen statewide throughout the period. The 12 Sep CVNP census found 132 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and French Creek Reservation, **Lorain**, had 20 on 09 Nov (BRAS).

**Brown Creeper:** This species breeds sparingly in Ohio, so three singing at Killbuck Marsh on 01 Aug were not a big surprise (Adam H. Yoder). The earliest sighting south of the breeding range was on 03 Oct at Armleder Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf). BSBO banded 81 at Navarre between 19 Sep and 01 Nov.

**Carolina Wren:** These were found throughout the state during the whole period. Ned Keller saw one carrying food to a nest in **Hamilton** on 06 Sep. Fifteen were found on two dates, 11 Sep at Miami Whitewater wetlands (Russell Taylor) and 21 Nov at Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland** (Noel Cutright).

**House Wren:** This species was found statewide into Oct, with the last report coming from the 01 Nov ONWR survey. The Navarre banding team captured 52 between 05 July and 18 Oct, and Sean Williams counted 14 on the OWU campus on 25 Sep.

**Winter Wren:** The first were noted 12 Sep in CVNP (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and Camp Berry, **Hancock** (Robert Sams and Jeff Loughman). The high count of 17 graced Kelleys' Island on 17 Oct (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes). The only reports in the south of the state were several sightings in contiguous **Butler**, **Clermont**, **Hamilton**, and **Warren**.

**Sedge Wren:** Several were heard and seen singing in various **Hamilton**, **Preble**, and **Union** locations in early Aug (m. obs.). Four were found at ONWR on 15 Aug (Chris Pierce) and one to three were seen along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, from 13 Sep to the latest reported date of 01 Nov (Jerry Talkington and Suzanne Wagner). The prize, however, goes to the several friends who found 12 at Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, on 03 Oct (Robert Hershberger, m. obs.).

**Marsh Wren:** Most of the reports came in Aug and Sep from nesting areas; the last was on 06 Nov at Columbia Reservation, Lorain (BRAS). The eBird entry noted, "This very vocal bird appeared to be a juvenile."

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The earliest report was on 11 Sep at Charleston Falls Park, Miami (Daniel Seger). BSBO banded 285 in Oct at Navarre. The 17 Oct Kelleys' Island survey counted 449 (Tom Bartlett and

Pat Hayes), and one-day high counts of 20 to 30 were found at several other sites. They were seen through the end of the period.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The earliest report was from Camp Berry, Hancock, on 12 Sep (Robert Sams and Jeff Loughman). Doug and Micki Dunakin found birds in **Paulding** from 13 Sep to 04 Nov and BSBO banded 245 at Navarre between 19 Sep and 01 Nov. Fifty were at the Lorain dredge spoil site on 18 Oct (BRAS). There were few reports in Nov, and the last was seen 26 Nov along the Little Miami River in **Hamilton** (Mark Gilsdorf).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Eight at Buck Creek on 09 Aug (Doug Overacker) could have been a mix of breeders and migrants; the 10 at Shawnee Lookout Park, **Hamilton**, on 30 Aug were probably mostly the latter (Mark Gilsdorf). They were seen in small numbers, mostly in central and southern counties. The next to last was seen on 03 Oct at Farbach-Warner preserve, **Hamilton** (Albert Scruggs and Julie Morris) and the last almost a month later, 01 Nov at ONWR (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**Northern Wheatear:** Emory Yoder identified one at his farm in **Holmes** on 12 Sep, and it was viewed by almost 600 birders from Ohio and at least eight other states (*vide* Robert Lane) until 15 Sep. It appeared to be either an adult female or a hatch-year bird of either sex; their plumages are virtually identical in fall. A written account by Rob Harlan and photographs by many observers made acceptance of this third state record easy for the OBRC.



**Eastern Bluebird:** Late-brood fledglings were seen in **Hancock** on 04 Aug (Robert Sams) and **Medina** on 24 Aug (Terri Martincic). They were noted in many parks and preserves statewide during the whole period, though most sightings were in Oct and Nov. The highest counts, many to almost 60, were in Oct.

**Veery:** The single birds seen 03 Aug in CVNP (Tom and Mary Ann Romito) and 13 Aug in Hueston Woods (David Russell) were probably breeders. Migrants were seen at a few locations, and 15 were banded at Navarre between 24 Aug and 20 Oct (BSBO).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The earliest were seen on 05 Sep, seven at Perrysburg, **Wood** (Claire Britton), and one at Kaleidoscope Tree Farm, **Hancock** (Lauren Harter). BSBO banded 163 at Navarre between 06 Sep and 08 Oct. Pre-dawn



Steve Landes photographed this Northern Wheatear on 13 Sep during its four-day visit to **Holmes**.

listeners counted 42 on 25 Sep at a **Coshocton** home (Adam H. Yoder and David H. Yoder). A moderate number were seen throughout the state from late Sep to mid-Oct, and the latest was noted during a 24 Oct survey at Navarre (BSBO).

**Swainson's Thrush:** The earliest was seen 24 Aug at Navarre (BSBO). The teams banded 350 there between 29 Aug and 01 Nov, which was the last sighting date. Only Blackpoll Warblers were more numerous. High counts sighted away from the touchdown sites near Lake Erie included 15 at Ellis Lake Wetlands, **Butler**, on 26 Sep (Mike Busam) and 20 at Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 27 Sep (Thomas Slemmer), but the flight-call counters in **Coshocton** tallied 254 on 25 Sep (Adam H. Yoder and David H. Yoder).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first sighting was near Baltic, **Coshocton**, on 06 Sep (James E. Yoder and Adam H. Yoder). BSBO banded 238 at Navarre between 01 Oct and 01 Nov. Doug and Micki Dunakin had one or two on their property in **Paulding** from 03 to 20 Oct, and Sean Williams counted 19 on the OWU campus on 10 Oct. Small numbers were at scattered locations through the end of the period, and a few can be expected in any winter month.

**Wood Thrush:** There were scattered reports until the latest sighting, on 27 Oct at Villa Angela, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson). The high count was 25 in the Days Dam area Lorain, on 24 Aug (BRAS).

**American Robin:** Small numbers of residents or their winter replacements were seen throughout the period. Some notable migratory concentrations included 1,900 near Sugarcreek, **Tuscarawas**, on 04 Sep (Albert E. Miller and Wayne E. Miller); 900 at Camp Berry, **Hancock**, on 04 Oct (Lauren Harter); 600 on 29 Oct on the OWU campus (Sean Williams); and 300 at the Ohio State University wetlands on 08 Nov (Dave Slager).

**Gray Catbird:** A nest with young was noted 03 Aug near Mansfield, **Richland** (Gary Cowell). Migrants were apparently moving by mid-Sep; for example 75 were at Springville Marsh on 12 Sep (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.) and 30 were seen at Ellis Lake Wetlands, **Butler**, on 27 Sep (Mike Busam). There were eight Nov reports, as far apart at **Erie** and **Hamilton**.

**Northern Mockingbird:** In contrast to 2008's north-heavy sightings, this year this species was found statewide throughout the period. Several recently hatched birds were seen in early Aug, and one was observed on 19 Sep in **Hamilton** (Wayne Wauligman, m. obs.). Reports were of four or fewer birds, except for the 11 Robert Hershberger found within 0.5 mile of his house on 01 Oct.

**Brown Thrasher:** A few were seen through Oct, mostly in central and southern Ohio. The only Nov sightings were at Camp Friedlander, **Hamilton**, on the 12 Oct (Robert Poppe) and Camp Dennison, **Hamilton**, on the 21 Oct (Kirk Westendorf).

**European Starling:** The season editor is grateful for the number of observers who counted and reported this species; 70 counties (rural as well as urban) were represented. Some notable flocks included 2,000 at Funk Bottoms, **Wayne**, on 10 Sep (Su Snyder); 18,000 on the OWU campus on 23 Sep (Sean Williams); 5,000 at ONWR on 01 Nov (*vide* Aaron Bentley); and 2,100 at Miami Whitewater on 29 Nov (Neill Cade).

**American Pipit:** The first was noted 06 Sep at Springville Marsh (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The largest of the three triple-digit flocks reported was of 200 near Mt. Eaton, **Wayne**, on 28 Oct (Aden Yoder), and there were five reports of between 15 and 30 individuals. They were seen through the end of the period.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Small numbers were seen throughout the period at many locations. Dependent young were noted on 27 Sep in **Coshocton** (Adam H. Yoder). Sean Williams counted 680 on the OWU campus on 06 Sep, and large numbers continued through Oct. Blue Creek Conservation Area, **Lucas**, had 120 feeding in honeysuckle on 03 Oct (Elliot Tramer) and flocks totaling 250 were in the Ira Road area of CVNP on 02 Nov (Tom and Mary Ann Romito).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** One singing on 16 Aug at Shawnee Lookout (Susan and Linda Osterhage) and one seen 17 Aug at Ira Road, CVNP (Tom and Mary Ann Romito) were probably nesters. Likely migrants were seen from the end of Aug to the last sighting, on 27 Sep in **Harrison** (Brad Sparks).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Nine reports were received of sightings between 29 Aug in *Holmes* (James F. Yoder) and 28 Sep in *Hamilton* (Lori Brumbaugh). The others were in *Butler*, *Coshocton*, *Delaware*, *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, and *Stark*.

**[Golden-winged x Blue-winged warbler]:** Ray Hannikman and Emil Bacik discovered a ‘Lawrence’s’ Warbler at Headlands on 16 Aug. James E. Yoder found a ‘Brewster’s’ Warbler near New Bedford, *Coshocton*, on 13 Aug.

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first was seen near Sugarcreek, *Tuscarawas*, on 08 Aug (Ed Schlabach); it was next reported on 22 Aug at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker). The last sighting was 27 Oct at Litzenberg Farm Park, *Hancock* (Betty Hardesty). Most reports were of five or fewer birds, but Gary Cowell found 10 along a mile of the B & O Trail, *Richland*, on 02 Oct.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** These were reported from over 20 locations between 16 Aug and 01 Nov. Seven were at Camp Berry, *Hancock*, on 17 Oct (Robert Sams); seven were banded at Navarre between 05 and 25 Oct (BSBO); and there were multiple sightings at Villa Angela, *Cuyahoga*, between 26 Sep and 01 Nov (Nancy Anderson).

**Nashville Warbler:** Doug and Micki Dunakin noted the earliest in their *Paulding* yard on 27 Aug. Sean Williams found 14 on the OWU campus on 25 Oct; Julie West’s team banded 10 at Dike 14, *Cuyahoga*, on 27 Sep (*fide* Laura Gooch); and BSBO banded 50 at Navarre until 27 Oct.

Robert Hershberger found “a very tardy one [north] of Berlin” on 29 Nov.

**Northern Parula:** The several reports were dated between 15 Aug at three sites and 17 Oct at Buck Creek (Doug Overacker). Most were of one or two birds, but five were in Area M of the Delaware Wildlife Area, *Delaware*, on 15 Aug (Charlie Bombaci).

**Yellow Warbler:** Local breeders and migrants were noted widely in Aug. There were a moderate number of Sep reports, and the last was of three quite late birds in *Hancock* on 03 Nov (Betty Hardesty).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first were seen 23 Aug at both Carlisle Reservation, *Lorain* (Erik Bruder), and Navarre, where BSBO banded 13 between that date and 30 Sep. There were scattered reports during Aug and many in Sep. The last bird was in *Holmes* on 29 Oct (Micah Hershberger).

**Magnolia Warbler:** BSBO banded 124 at Navarre between 23 Aug and 11 Oct, the earliest and latest dates reported. There seems to have been a late-Sep push in central and southern Ohio, as there were many reports (some with double-digit counts) in *Butler*, *Clermont*, *Franklin*, and *Hamilton* in the last 10 days of the month.

**Cape May Warbler:** The first was seen 23 Aug at Sheldon’s Marsh, *Erie* (Andy Sewell). Small numbers were seen in at least 25 locations, with most sightings being in the second half of Sep. The 25 at Magee Marsh on 27

Oct were notable (Lauren Harter, m. obs.). The next to last report was on 10 Oct at the Miami Whitewater wetlands (Ned Keller, m. obs.) and the last much later, on 21 Oct at Metzger Marsh, **Lucas** (Kenn Kaufman).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:**

The first was seen 27 Aug at Navarre; BSBO banded 65 there until 13 Oct. Surprisingly, the last bird was seen on 17 Oct at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, rather than in the south (Su Snyder). Most reports were of one or two individuals, but six were seen at Kelleys' Island on 17 Sep (Tom Bartlett and John Lortz) and five at Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 25 Sep (Dave Slager and Ben Warner).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** As always, these rather late migrants were seen in all parts of the state and sometimes in large numbers. The first was seen on 28 Aug at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain** (BRAS), and they were present into the winter season. Tom and Mary Ann Romito found 30 to 40 during each of their Oct weekly surveys at Ira Road, CVNP. The Miami Whitewater wetlands held 200 on 10 Oct (Ned Keller, m. obs.), and Springville Marsh had 250 on 25 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:**

The first was seen at Sheldon's Marsh, **Erie**, on 23 Aug (Andy Sewell) and several were seen in eight counties by the end of Aug. The OWU campus had 24 on 25 Sep (Sean Williams), and the last report was of one banded 25 Oct at Navarre (BSBO).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** The first was found on 22 Aug in **Coshocton**

(Adam H. Yoder) and six were at the Battelle–Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 03 Sep (Dave Slager). There were many Sep sightings throughout the state, and the last was seen 11 Oct at Avoca Park, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** The earliest report, from Litzenberg Farm Park, **Hancock**, on 11 Aug, was almost surely a migrant (Dorothy Barker), as that is far from the species' usual nesting areas. There were several Aug and early Sep sightings in the southwest that could have been nesters. The only Oct sighting was at Fernald Nature Preserve, **Hamilton**, on Oct 11 (Paul Wharton, m. obs.). A late individual was in a **Franklin** yard on 12 Nov (Bernie Master); an even later one visited a feeder in Goshen Township, **Clermont**, almost daily between 16 and 25 Nov (Laura Bradley).

**Pine Warbler:** The first report was of one at Holden Arboretum, **Lake**, on 19 Aug (Rebecca Thompson). Four were singing in a pine grove in Indian Hill, **Hamilton**, on 01 Sep (Frank Renfrow), and a few others were seen in Sep and a smattering in Oct. The last sightings were both of two birds on 22 Oct, at Sharon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin** (Bill Tacon) and Winton Woods County Park, **Hamilton** (John Marvin).

**Kirtland's Warbler:** One wowed the participants at the Midwest Birding Symposium on 18 Sep. Jim Lindway's party found the bird at 9 a.m. in East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**, which is almost adjacent to the symposium site. The bird was very cooperative for the rest of the day as dozens of admirers and listers viewed it.

**Prairie Warbler:** All seven reports are described. Two found in **Adams**, on 09 Aug at Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve (Rob and Sandy Harlan) and on 05 Sep at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve (Paul Krusling), could have been nesters. One was near Sugarcreek, **Tuscarawas**, on 07 Sep (Ed Schlabach). One was in Mount Airy Forest, **Hamilton**, on 19 Sep (Paula Miller) and one at Twin Creek Metro Park, **Montgomery**, on 25 Sep (John Hull). Wildwood State Park, **Cuyahoga**, had one on each of 27 Sep and 04 Oct (Nancy Anderson).

**Palm Warbler:** The earliest reported was seen by Doug and Micki Dunakin in their **Paulding** yard on 09 Sep. Bill



*The private community of Lakeside was the site host for the successful Midwest Birding Symposium. During the first morning of talks, 18 Sep, a Kirtland's Warbler was identified at nearby East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**, fortunately causing a slow exodus rather than a stampede of birders to this site. This cooperative individual was studied and photographed by many, including Bernie Master, who submitted this photograph.*

Jones found one on each of 21 Sep, 01 Oct, and 11 Oct at Mill Creek, and a few others were scattered around the state during that period. The last sighting was from ONWR on 01 Nov (*vide* Aaron Bartley).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** This species was seen in over 25 counties, starting on 27 Aug in Battelle–Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin** (Ben Warner). BSBO banded 17 at Navarre between 05 Sep and 07 Oct, not long before the last was seen at the Riverbend Recreation Area, **Hancock**, on 13 Oct (Betty Hardesty).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** These were widespread and numerous. The earliest was at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 23 Aug (Aden Yoder). BSBO banded 538 between 06 Sep and 24 Oct at Navarre; it was their most numerous species. The latest date of 01 Nov was shared by BSBO at Navarre and Nancy Anderson at Villa Angela, **Cuyahoga**.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Three reports were from **Franklin**. One was seen at Innis Park on 03 Sep (Rob Thorn), and the sightings at Blendon Woods Metro Park on 09 and 10 Sep were probably of one bird (Charlie Bombaci, Bruce Simpson). Migrants were seen in **Holmes** on 18 and 22 Aug (James E. Yoder) and one was singing at The Wilderness Center, **Stark**, on 29 Aug (Aden Yoder).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** One at East Fork on 01 Aug could have been a breeder (Bill Stanley), and probable migrants were seen from that date in the northwest. Reports were sparse until late Aug; they were numerous

in Sep. The latest was at 10 Oct at Shaker Lakes, **Cuyahoga** (Amy Eugene).

**American Redstart:** A few individuals of this widespread nesting and migrant species were found in early Aug. There were several double-digit counts in Sep, and the last was seen 13 Oct at Litzenberg Farm Park, **Hancock** (Betty Hardesty).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Probable nesters were found 01 Aug along the B & O Trail, **Richland**, (Gary Cowell) and 02 Aug at Magrish Preserve, **Hamilton** (Kirk Westendorf). As usual, most had departed the state before Sep, but a very late individual was seen at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, on 01 Oct (John Zahnen).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** The four reports were of single birds at Shawnee Lookout on 16 and 29 Aug (Susan and Linda Osterhage); two at the Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**, on 10 Sep (Charlie Bombaci); and one at Caesar's Creek on 13 Sep (Jason and Neill Cade).

**Ovenbird:** One or two were reported from 17 counties in starting 24 Aug in **Paulding** (Doug and Micki Dunakin), with seven on 27 Sep at Sharon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**, being notable (Dave Slager). The last was seen at Navarre on 27 Oct (BSBO).

**Northern Waterthrush:** The first was seen 24 Aug at Pickerel Creek (Kenn Kaufman), and BSBO banded 31 through 08 Oct. One or two birds were seen in a few counties until 08 Oct.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** The only reports were from California Woods, **Hamilton**, on 02 Aug (Kirk Westendorf) and Hueston Woods on 22 Aug (John Shrader).

**Kentucky Warbler:** The few reports spanned from 12 Aug in Holmes (Adam H. Yoder) to 26 Sep at Navarre (BSBO).

**Connecticut Warbler:** The first was seen 06 Sep at Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain** (Erik Bruder), and BSBO banded six at Navarre between 11 Sep and 10 Oct. There were several sightings in **Paulding**, **Franklin**, and **Holmes** during the second half of Sep (m. obs.). The latest was seen at Miami Whitewater on 11 Oct (Albert Scruggs).

**Mourning Warbler:** Right on schedule, this species first appeared 23 Aug in **Wayne** (Perry Yoder). Two were banded and another seen at the Reick Center, **Hancock**, on 11 Sep (Lauren Harter, m. obs.). The latest report was from ONWR on 05 Oct (Dave Vander Pluym, m. obs.).

**Common Yellowthroat:** This widespread nester was reported from 43 counties, with the last migrant seen 01 Nov at Villa Angela, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson). Tom Bartlett's team counted 100 at Springville Marsh on 12 Sep.

**Hooded Warbler:** The 02 Aug sighting in Carlisle Reservation, **Lorain**, was probably a nester (m. obs.), but the one in California Woods, **Hamilton**, on 03 Aug was far from the species' usual breeding areas (Jim Zook). The last migrants were seen 24 Oct at Villa Angela, **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson) and Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin** (m. obs.).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first was seen 23 Aug in **Paulding** (Doug and Micki Dunakin). One to three were seen on multiple dates, and 16 were seen on 06 Sep on the OWU campus (Sean Williams). Other scattered sightings throughout the state led to the latest at Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**, on 24 Oct (Thomas Slemmer).

**Canada Warbler:** A small party found the earliest two migrants in northeast **Coshocton** on 23 Aug (Jacob M. Hostetler and Adam H. Yoder). There were about 25 sightings in Sep and the latest was at the Denison University Biological Preserve, **Licking**, on 03 Oct (Mike Smith).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Most of the reports were during Aug and from the southwestern counties, so many of them were probably nesters. The only reports after Aug were from Van Buren State Park, **Hancock**, on 13 Sep (Robert Sams) and at Headlands on 03 Oct (Erik Bruder).

**Eastern Towhee:** This species was widely reported throughout the period. The 15 at Buck Creek on 08 Aug were notable (Doug Overacker).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The first two were seen 30 Sep at Sandy Ridge Reservation, **Lorain**, (BRAS), followed quickly by a flock of 50 in Van Buren State Park, **Hancock**, on 06 Oct (Betty Hardesty). Another notable flock was of 60 at Pickerington Ponds on 21 Nov (Dave Slager and Ben Warner). They were seen through the end of the period into winter.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Dependent young were seen in early Aug as far apart as **Summit** (Tom and Mary Ann Romito) and **Hamilton** (Wayne Wauligman). A flock of approximately 65 was at the City of Delaware Water Plant, **Delaware**, on 14 Oct (Bill Shively). Reports were sparse in Nov but continued to the end of the period.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** One that summered in **Holmes** was seen into Aug (Tim Hochstetler). One was on Kelleys' Island on 17 Sep (Tom Bartlett and John Lortz). Mike Busam found two at Ellis Lake Wetlands, **Butler**, on 27 Sep, and at least one of them was seen by many observers through 29 Sep. One at Headlands on 03 Oct (Eric Bruder); one along Mentor Marsh's Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 08 Oct (Suzanne Wagner and Jerry Talkington); and one at Mill Creek on 18 Oct (Bill Jones) complete the reports extracted from all sources.

**Field Sparrow:** These were seen throughout the period; the 50 at East Fork on 05 Sep was a noteworthy count (Bill Stanley, m. obs.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** One was singing near New Philadelphia, **Tuscarawas**, on 03 Aug (Hallie Mason). There were eight reports from sites near Findlay, **Hancock**, from early Aug until late Oct (Robert Sams, m. obs.). One near New Bedford, **Coshocton**, on 15 Nov was the last (James E. Yoder).

**Lark Sparrow:** The season editor suspects that one at Headlands on 04 Sep (Ben Winger, m. obs.) and one at Villa Angela, **Cuyahoga**, on 05 Sep (Nancy Anderson) were the same bird. These were the only reports for the season.



*With increasing understanding of their habitat needs and more field time being spent in these habitats, sightings of Le Conte's Sparrows are becoming more common in fall migration. Dave Slager photographed this Le Conte's Sparrow on 05 Oct in Franklin.*

**Savannah Sparrow:** These fairly widespread breeders were found starting in early Aug. Thirty-three were at the **Hardin** wetlands on 30 Aug (Richard Counts) and up to 30 were seen on several Oct dates at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager). Small numbers were fairly regular at Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, through Nov (Kirk Westendorf).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Those found in **Clark**, **Franklin**, **Marion**, **Union**, and **Wyandot** in early Aug were most likely breeders (m. obs.). There were no reports from that time until 05 Oct at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager) and then 31 Oct at Lake Loramie State Park, **Shelby** (Brad Sparks).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** One to three were seen at ONWR between

01 and 21 Aug, probably breeders giving way to migrants (Erik Bruder, Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). The latest was reported 18 Oct at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** One or two were seen along the Wake Robin Trail in Mentor Marsh, **Lake**, between 29 Sep and 05 Nov (Jerry Talkington, Suzanne Wagner, m. obs.). The other reports were of one at a newly created wetland adjacent to the **Hancock** landfill on 03 Oct (Dave Vander Pluym), one on 05 and 18 Oct at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager, m. obs.), and one in **Tuscarawas** on 27 Oct (Robert Schlabach).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** The first was seen 27 Sep at Mill Creek (Bill Jones). A group of friends found six to eight at Funk Bottoms on 03 Oct (Jacob M. Hostetler, m. obs.). The Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, was a haven for



*As with Le Conte's Sparrow, better coverage of appropriate habitat is turning up more Nelson's Sparrow records in fall. Dave Russell submitted this photograph of a hatch-year Nelson's Sparrow that he banded 01 Oct at Shaker Trace in Miami Whitewater Forest, **Hamilton**.*



this species as well, with up to five being seen 29 Sep to 30 Oct (Jerry Talkington, Suzanne Wagner, m. obs.). One to three were seen on several dates in that period at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager), and single birds were found in **Hamilton, Hancock, Holmes,** and **Tuscarawas** (m. obs.).

**Fox Sparrow:** BSBO banded eight at Navarre between 08 Oct and 01 Nov and 12 were at Springville Marsh on 19 Nov (Robert Sams). They were also reported from 21 other counties through the end of the period.

**Song Sparrow:** This species was reported from almost 65 counties throughout the period and probably had the most sightings of any bird. Notable concentrations included 100 at the Miami Whitewater wetlands on 10 Oct (Ned Keller, m. obs.) and 100 on 24 Oct at Pickerington Ponds (Dave Slager), and there were many reports with double-digit counts.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The earliest was seen 23 Aug at Sheldon's Marsh (Andy Sewell) and latest was at Armleder Park, **Hamilton,** on 20 Nov (Joe Kappa). Small numbers of them were widespread between those dates, though there were only two other Nov sightings. Interesting concentrations of 10 were at Pickerington Ponds on 05 Oct (Dave Slager) and Miami Whitewater wetlands 10 Oct (Ned Keller).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Nesting birds were thick in the many marshy areas in Aug; singing males were noted in at least three counties. Double-digit numbers were widely reported through Oct. The latest of the season were reported 29 Nov in several locations, and they remained into December.

**White-throated Sparrow:** The first individual, seen on 25 Aug in a **Hancock** yard, was almost a month earlier than usual (Betty Hardesty). They began appearing in many counties during the third week of Sep and were seen through the end of the period. BSBO banded 290 at Navarre; Kelleys' Island had 203 on 17 Oct (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes), and 60 were seen on 26 Oct at Ira Road, CVNP (Tom and Mary Ann Romito).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The first report was from a **Summit** yard on 13 Sep (Michael Fitts). They were soon widespread through the end of the period. The 17 Oct Kelleys' Island survey found 79 (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** The individual that frequented a **Paulding** feeder from 27 Mar to 25 April 2009 and was banded during that time returned 17 Nov and was still present as of this writing, in Mar 2010 (Ron Sakalosky).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Birds from northeast Ohio's small breeding population were seen in early Aug in **Cuyahoga, Lake,** and **Summit.** Those seen along the Buckeye Trail in **Summit** on 03 and 04 Sep could have been residents or migrants (Clyde Witt), whereas the one on 15 Sep at Oak Openings, **Lucas,** was the first definite migrant (Elliot Tramer). One of the 'Oregon' subspecies group was seen several times between 26 Nov and 02 Dec in a **Franklin** yard (Bernie Master).

**Lapland Longspur:** The first was reported 06 Oct at Conneaut (Mark Vass); three were seen there on 17 Oct

(Robert and Denise Lane) and two on 06 Nov (Craig Holt). Single birds were seen at a few other locations through the end of the period. Approximately 200 were seen near the Thomas Wetland, **Paulding**, on 05 Nov (Doug and Micki Dunakin); such large flocks are uncommon in Ohio but when present are most often seen in the far western counties.

**Snow Bunting:** One seen 08 Oct at Navarre was a bit earlier than usual; more typical were the three seen over Lake Erie on the 29 Oct aerial waterfowl survey (Keith Lott). During the second half of Nov, they were reported in flocks of up to 50 in **Clark, Geauga, Hancock, Lake,** and **Ottawa**.

**Summer Tanager:** Several reported from **Adams, Butler, Clermont,** and **Hamilton** in early Aug were probably breeders; those reported in the same areas into mid-Sep most likely included migrants. The last sighting in the disjunct breeding area of Oak Openings, **Lucas**, was on 17 Sep (Elliot Tramer). A juvenile male seen at Willow Point on 20 Oct, was very late (Larry Richardson).

**Scarlet Tanager:** This species was reported statewide in Aug and Sep, with the last reports but one being in mid-Oct. That last report was from the College Hill neighborhood of **Hamilton** on the late date of 06 Nov (Steve Pelikan).

**Northern Cardinal:** This popular species was widely reported, sometimes in large numbers. For instance, the 12 Sep CVNP census found 113 (Dwight Chasar, m. obs.) and Linda Househower counted 66 in Bluffton, **Allen**, on 29 Sep.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** These were widely reported into Oct, with 15 found at Ellis Lake Wetlands, **Butler**, on 27 Sep (Mike Busam). A fallout in northeast **Coshocton** on 26 Sep yielded 36 (Adam H. Yoder). The last report was from Kelleys' Island on 17 Oct (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes).

**Blue Grosbeak:** There were reports from several **Hamilton** sites; the most were from Armleder Park, where up to three were seen throughout Aug (m. obs.). A singing male on Prairie Lane, **Wayne**, until 12 Aug was near the northern edge of their usual breeding range, as were singles seen in **Coshocton** and **Tuscarawas** (m. obs.). The last report was of two at Fernald Nature Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 11 Oct (Paul Wharton, m. obs.).

**Indigo Bunting:** The highest count was 30, found at several locations from Aug to mid Sep. The last were reported 24 Oct from Shawnee Lookout (Bill Stanley).

**Dickcissel:** As usual, reports were widely scattered. Armleder Park, **Hamilton**, hosted them again this year, with up to three seen through 04 Oct (m. obs.). A migrant was seen along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 13 Sep (Jerry Talkington). The latest sighting was at Pickerington Ponds on 25 Oct (Dave Slager).

**Bobolink:** These were present at the Thomas Wetlands, **Paulding**, until 26 Sep (Doug and Micki Dunakin). Kenn Kaufman noted, "Flocks may have been coming in to roost..." when he counted 70 at Pickerel Creek on 24 Aug. Robert Hershberger counted 158 flyovers near Mt. Hope, **Holmes**, on 06 Sep. The latest report was of one

near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 24 Oct (James F. Yoder).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Hundreds were seen at Mill Creek throughout Oct (Bill Jones). The 900 at Springville Marsh on 23 Aug grew to 5,500 on 18 Oct (Tom Bartlett, m. obs.). Killdeer Plains hosted 4,000 on 22 Oct (Bill Shively and Jack Priser). Robert Sams calculated a phenomenal 27,000 at Winous Point on 20 Aug.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Small numbers reported in Aug and Sep peaked at 40 at The Wilds, **Muskingum**, on 17 Oct (Heather Nagy and Kathy Mock). They were seen at many sites through the end of the period.

**Rusty Blackbird:** A very early male bird in downtown Cleveland on 08 Aug was well described (Jonathan White). Scattered small groups were seen starting in Sep through the end of the period. Large flocks reported include 125 on 09 Oct at Grand River Wildlife Area, **Trumbull** (Dave and Judy Hochadel); 250 on 22 Oct at Killdeer Plains (Bill Shively and Jack Priser); and approximately 700 near Miami Whitewater wetlands on 29 Nov (Neill Cade).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** There were five reports of small numbers of this uncommon species, which, however, does nest nearby in southern Michigan: Three were at ONWR on 02 Oct (*vide* ONWR); one at Glenwood Gardens, **Hamilton**, on 04 Oct (John Marvin); two in southwestern **Lorain** on 23 Nov (Larry Richardson); 12 in southeastern **Ottawa** on 26 Nov (John Pogacnik); and at least seven in the huge mixed blackbird flock near

Miami Whitewater wetlands on 29 Nov (Neill Cade).

**Common Grackle:** A flock of at least 2,000 passed over Betty Hardesty in **Hancock** on 18 Aug, rather early for migration massing. More typical in timing were the approximately 3,000 at Lex House, Richland, on 22 Oct (Carl Ball) and 6,000 along the Great Miami River in Hamilton, **Butler**, on 11 Nov (Mike Busam and Charlie Saunders).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Small numbers were widespread, with many double-digit counts and a few in triple digits. The mixed blackbird flock near Miami Whitewater wetlands on 29 Nov included approximately 1,500 (Neill Cade).

**Orchard Oriole:** All but two of the 17 reports were in Aug, with the last being on 08 Sep at French Creek Reservation (BRAS).

**Baltimore Oriole:** What were probably both nesters and migrants were seen throughout the state until the last reports on 13 Sep from Buck Creek (Doug Overacker) and **Tuscarawas** (*vide* Ed Schlabach). The 16 Aug Kelleys' Island survey found 33 (Tom Bartlett and Pat Hayes); most other reports were of fewer than 10 individuals.

**Purple Finch:** The two at Ira Road, CVNP, on 02 Aug had probably nested nearby (Tom and Mary Ann Romito). Small numbers of winter visitors were seen throughout the state beginning about 15 Sep. Dave Vander Pluym banded 12 in an **Allen** woodland on 25 Oct.

**House Finch:** Reports were well distributed throughout the state and period. Two high counts were of 50 at West Creek Park, **Cuyahoga**, on 12 Oct (Gabe Leidy) and 60 in Hamilton, **Butler**, on 15 Oct (Mike Busam and Charlie Saunders).

**Red Crossbill:** The sole report was of one at Litzenberg Memorial Woods, **Hancock**, on 25 Oct (Lauren Harter).

**Common Redpoll:** One was reported in a Kirtland, **Lake**, yard on 10 Oct (anon. eBird contributor). One was in Cullen Park, **Lucas**, on 12 Nov (Mark Faust). Another sighting, at Oak Openings, **Lucas**, on 22 Nov, could have been the same bird (Matt Kemp).

**Pine Siskin:** Two were seen at the BSBO feeder on 29 Oct (Kenn Kaufman). One was banded at Shaker Lakes on 21 Sep and another at Navarre on 08 Oct (BSBO). The rest of the sightings were in Nov, with reports from more than 10 sites across the northern half of the state. Siskin sightings may have been increased by the larger than usual number of nesting pairs which remained in the state this summer.

**American Goldfinch:** Many families with young were noted into late Aug (OBBA II data, *vide* Matthew Shumar). Birds were seen throughout the period, with a group of 300 at Miami Whitewater wetlands on 10 Oct (Ned Keller, m. obs.) and several of 200 at other locations.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Two were seen at feeders on 14 Nov, one in Elyria, **Lorain** (*vide* BRAS), and one in **Ashtabula** (Rob Krajewski). Neither remained for public viewing.

**House Sparrow:** These were reported throughout the state in all types of habitats.

## Errata

There was an erroneous image caption in the Summer 2009 season report. The American White Pelican photograph on page 154 shows 24 individuals, whereas the caption suggests that there were 28. Twenty-eight birds were indeed reported, but four had taken to the air before this photo was taken. Additionally, we failed to credit Su Snyder as the photographer.

The editorial staff of *The Ohio Cardinal* thanks all of the individuals and organizations who made their field data available to us through reports submitted directly to us by mail and e-mail, as well as through online resources managed by the Ohio Ornithological Society and other means.

Mike Acheson	Gary Cowell	Cheryl Harner
Martin Ackerman	Pat Coy	Lauren Harter
Scott Albaugh	Charles Crawford	Michael Harvey
Nancy Anderson	Noel Cutright	Wes Hatch
Rick Aracil	Jeff Davis	Deborah Hausrauth
Sean Artman	Todd Deal	Pat Hayes
Rick Asamoto	Lawrence DeAtley	John Herman
Emil Bacik	Chris Decker	Bob Herp
Carl Ball	Leo Deininger	Allen Hershberger
Doroth Barker	Cheryl Dinkelbach	Micah Hershberger
Paula Bartlett	Fred Dinkelbach	Michael Hershberger
Tom Bartlett	Ed Dolgin	Paul Hershberger
Aaron Bartley	Kim Dolgin	Robert Hershberger
Cindy Beckman	Laura Dornan	Terry Hines
Gretchen Beers	Bill Doss	Dave Hochadel
Ken Beers	Doug Dunakin	Judy Hochadel
Gregory Bennett	Micki Dunakin	Tim Hochstetler
Black River Audubon Society (BRAS)	Sherrie Duris	William Hochstetler
Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO)	Joshua Eastlake	James Holsinger
Earl Boehm	Robert Edelin	Craig Holt
Mark Bogosian	Greg Emmert	Jacob M. Hostetler
Charles Bombaci	Lola Erwin	Linda Househower
Aaron Boone	Amy Eugene	John Hull
Ben Bowers	Virginia Fantetti	Lauren Hunter
Chris Bowers	Mark Faust	Lola Irvin
Jill Bowers	Bob Finkelstein	William Jackson
Laura Bradley	Bonnie Fish	Bill Jones
Ben Britton	Michael Fitts	Steve Jones
Claire Britton	Robert Foppe	Susan Jones
Matt Brooker	Frank Frick	Joe Kappa
Erik Bruder	Darlene Friedman	Kenn Kaufman
Lori Brumbaugh	Jonathan Frodge	Laura Keene
Eric Burkholder	James Fry	Ned Keller
Mike Busam	Larry Gara	Mark Kemp
Jason Cade	Jerry Gillan	Paul Kiplinger
Neill Cade	Mark Gilsdorf	Dennis Kline
Craig Caldwell	Jerry Gillan	Kevin Kline
Allan Chartier	Bruce Glick	Jerry Klug
Ann Chasar	Laura Gooch	Rob Krajewski
Dwight Chasar	Chris Goulart	Daniel Kramer
Allan Claybon	Darlene Graham	David Kriska
Rob Clifford	Ray Hannikman	Paul Krusling
Suzanne Clingman	Betty Hardesty	Linda Kurth
Richard Counts	Sally Hardesty	Steve Landes
	Rob Harlan	Denise Lane
	Sandy Harlan	Robert Lane

Al La Sala  
Bill Layne-Magill  
René Layne-Magill  
Jay Lehman  
Gabe Leidy  
Tim Lenz  
Jim Lindway  
John Lortz  
Keith Lott  
Jeff Loughman  
Paula Lozano  
Geoff Malosh  
Terri Martincic  
David Marvin  
John Marvin  
Hallie Mason  
Bernie Master  
Jim McCormac  
Ruhikant Meetei  
Lois Meyst  
Peter Meyst  
Aaron Miller  
Albert E. Miller  
Jeffrey Miller  
Jim Miller  
Kent Miller  
Leon Miller  
Mae Miller  
Paula Miller  
Wayne E. Miller  
Kathy Mock  
Craig Moore  
John Moore  
Julie Morris  
Andrew Morrison  
Ben Morrison  
Donald Morse, Jr.  
Josh Muchow  
Heather Nagy  
Bev Neubauer  
Ed Neubauer  
Ann Oliver  
Hope Orr  
Linda Osterhage  
Susan Osterhage  
Ken Ostermiller  
Ottawa National  
Wildlife Refuge

Doug Overacker  
Steve Pelikan  
Haans Petruschke  
Chris Pierce  
Ed Pierce  
John Pogacnik  
Bob Powell  
Susan Prior  
Jack Priser  
Frank Renfrow  
Ruth Richards  
Larry Richardson  
Shane Roberts  
Mary Ann Romito  
Tom Romito  
David Russell  
Ron Sakalosky  
Antonio Salvadori  
Robert Sams  
Dan Sanders  
Mike Sandy  
Charlie Saunders  
Samantha Sayre  
Regina Schieltz  
Ed Schlabach  
Inga Schmidt  
John Schrader  
Albert Scruggs  
Daniel Seger  
Andy Sewell  
Bill Shively  
Megan Shoemaker  
Randy Shonkwiler  
Matthew Shumar  
Bruce Simpson  
Dave Slager  
Thomas Slemmer  
Mike Smith  
Su Snyder  
Brad Sparks  
Bill Stanley  
Jack Stenger  
Jay Stenger  
John Strathern  
Dan Striley  
Matthew Studebaker  
Bill Takacs  
Jerry Talkinton

Karen Tanquist  
Russell Taylor  
Dru Tepper  
Thais Tepper  
Rob Thorn  
Sandy Tkach  
Elliot Tramer  
Albert L. Troyer  
John Troyer  
Matt Valencic  
Dave Vander Pluym  
Diane Van Schoyck  
Mark Vass  
Suzanne Wagner  
Ben Warner  
Dave Watkins  
Wayne Wauligman  
Kirk Westendorf  
Bill Whan  
Paul Wharton  
Jonathan White  
Sean Williams  
Kelly Williams-Sieg  
Ben Winger  
Geoff Winningham  
Jeff Wirt  
Andi Wolfe  
Stephen Wolfe  
Chris Wood  
Betsy Worden  
Adam H. Yoder  
Aden Yoder  
Atlee Yoder  
David H. Yoder  
Emory Yoder  
James E. Yoder  
James F. Yoder  
Mark Yoder  
Perry Yoder  
Autumn Young  
John Zahnen  
Bill Zimmerman  
Jim Zook



## **Winter 2009-2010 Overview and Report**

*By Jim McCormac*

*2314 Sandman Drive  
Columbus, OH 43235  
ambrosia@columbus.rr.com*

This winter, 180 species were reported — about the same number that breeds in Ohio annually. That total is actually down a few species from the previous two winters and reflects the often-severe weather conditions.

Compilers of winter season reports such as this one benefit greatly from Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data. This winter, 65 counts were conducted in Ohio, and several were cancelled due to inclement weather. Collectively, these counts offer a wealth of data, and I am especially grateful to Ned Keller, who assembles an easily interpreted synopsis of CBC results each year. That said, the responsible use of CBC data requires a firm hand on the rudder. Although much of the data is probably very reliable, especially when put into the context of long-term trends involving easily identified species, one must be cautious. This winter, Blue-winged Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, and House Wren were reported without details. The latter two species came from the same count, and that count reported four of the wrens! Another count reported a staggering 50 White-winged Scoters. Obviously, such reports are highly questionable, and if I include such fare in this

season report, it is generally with my skepticism apparent.

CBC data can be useful for deciphering long-term trends, especially with easily found and identified common species. This winter, record high counts were set for the following species: Wild Turkey, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk (but note my caveat about misidentifications), Cooper's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, and Northern Cardinal.

Not all species' numbers were up, though. Almost all waterfowl species were down, and significantly so. Tough winter weather probably pushed most of them elsewhere. However, several extremely hardy ducks were in high numbers, especially on Lake Erie: Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser. The fortunes of our only native quail continue to fade, as only one report of Northern Bobwhite was received. The American Kestrel seems to continue to decline as well, with predation from the ever-increasing Cooper's Hawk possibly being a factor. It was a lean winter for gulls, with only 10 species reported and most in quite low numbers. Last winter, 13 species were reported, and 14 the winter before that. All of our boreal irruptive species' numbers were way down this winter.

A number of hardy lingerers were reported, especially surprising in a rough winter: American White Pelican, Great Egret, Virginia Rail,



American Avocet, Least Sandpiper, White-eyed Vireo, Purple Martin, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. Six species of warblers persisted into the season, including an astonishing three apiece of Cape May and Yellow-throated warblers, and two Yellow Warblers!

What's up with woodpeckers? All of our widespread resident species are thriving, that's for sure. Discounting the very local Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (as a breeder), every species was reported in record or near-record numbers. I think two factors may account for these spikes. One, the overall maturation of forests in Ohio and throughout much of the east is providing better habitat. This is especially true in many long-established urban and suburban neighborhoods, where trees are protected and are now large enough to harbor thriving woodpecker populations. Another less desirable factor may be the boom of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Woodpeckers are fond of the larvae of this insect and are quite adept at finding them. As ash trees are, at least for the moment, abundant — comprising as much as 40% of some woodlands — there is now a new bonanza of woodpecker food.

Finally, everyone loves a rarity and this winter produced a few. A cooperative Eurasian Wigeon made for a state bird for many. Not to rain on that parade, but this species is quite common in captivity, although we typically assume they are all wild. An adult Northern Gannet was reported, which would be unprecedented; all indisputable reports are of immatures. We're up to about a dozen White-winged Dove records since the first occurrence in 2000, and another was

added this winter. The BIG NEWS was an Allen's Hummingbird, which was banded, providing Ohio's first record. It was seen by hundreds of observers. A credible report of two more Common Ravens adds to the growing body of records of this corvid, which is seemingly reclaiming former parts of its range. A Varied Thrush was a two-day wonder at a feeder. One of perhaps a half-dozen records of Spotted Towhee was of one that graced a feeder for the last week of February and was widely seen. And an indisputable Harris's Sparrow turned up on a Cincinnati-area CBC.

Review species' names are underlined in the species accounts; eleven were reported this season. Reports whose documentation has been accepted by the OBRC include the names of the observers; those for which no documentation was submitted or whose documentation was not considered sufficient are listed anonymously. The Committee urges birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature are those of the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 50th Supplement (2009). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. **County**

**names** are in bold italics. The term “*fide*” is used in some citations; it means “in trust of” and is used where the reporter was not the observer. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and for three organizations that occur repeatedly; these are as follows:

CBC = Christmas Bird Count  
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge  
WA = Wildlife Area

**Greater White-fronted Goose:**

Down significantly from the 130 reported last winter. Only about 10 individuals were located.

**Snow Goose:** Very low numbers were reported in general, although 448 were tallied on CBCs statewide. That is up significantly from last year's CBC total of 87. See Canada Goose account for information about a hybrid involving this species.

**Ross's Goose:** Only three reports, including one in *Pike* on 06 Jan (Robert Roysse) and one in *Franklin* on 14-15 Dec (Nate Nye).

**Cackling Goose:** About 32 individuals were reported, mostly in central and northern counties. That is well behind the 52 birds reported last winter. The high count was five in *Delaware* on 11 Dec (Sean Williams).

**Canada Goose:** The 81,910 reported from statewide CBCs was a significant drop from the 133,620 tallied on last year's counts. An apparent **Canada Goose x Snow Goose** hybrid spent much of Jan in the vicinity of downtown Cleveland, *Cuyahoga*, and was documented with a photo (Jared Mizanin).

**Mute Swan:** This invasive species continues to go strong, with at least 150 reported from around the state. Lake Erie, especially the western basin, is a stronghold, with many dozens of birds overwintering in the region.

**Trumpeter Swan:** CBCs reported 124 of these brutes, a hefty number but down from last year's record high of 156.

**Tundra Swan:** The 1,272 found on statewide CBCs was well up from the 788 reported last winter from counts. Typical early-winter migrants were 24 found in *Ross* on 01 Dec (John Wilson) and 302 reported from the Lake Erie Islands CBC, *Erie* and *Ottawa*, on 20 Dec. The motherlode of overwintering birds remains Ottawa NWR and vicinity, *Lucas* and *Ottawa*, where 885 were counted on 08 Feb (Doug Vogus).

**Wood Duck:** Forty were reported from 16 different CBCs, nearly matching last year's 41. Very few midwinter reports; noteworthy were five found in *Medina* on 21 Jan (Chris Decker).

**Gadwall:** The 329 reported from statewide CBCs was below average for the last decade.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** A drake was discovered in *Licking* on 28 Feb (Margaret Bowman). It lingered into March and was seen by many observers.

**American Wigeon:** Lower than normal numbers lingered into winter — only 34 were reported from statewide CBCs — and even fewer attempted to overwinter.

**American Black Duck:** Somewhat lower numbers than normal, but widely reported. The 2,658 tallied on CBCs was about 1,200 birds fewer than the previous winter's count.

**Mallard:** Excepting the Canada Goose, this species remains our most common and widespread waterfowl species. Still, CBC numbers were down by about one-third over last



East 72nd Street in Cleveland, **Cuyahoga**, continues to host many overwintering waterfowl and gulls in the warm-water outflows from the adjacent power plant. This coal-burning plant is slated to close soon, and these concentrations of birds will have to move elsewhere in the region. Dave Lewis visited this site on 10 Jan and photographed this scene of Bufflehead, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, and Ring-billed and Herring gulls.

winter's total of 45,192. Odd was the discovery of a hen with seven newly hatched chicks in **Franklin** in mid-Dec (Lisa Fosco).

**Blue-winged Teal:** One bird was reported, without details, from the Columbus CBC. Blue-winged Teal are quite rare in winter and should be thoroughly documented.

**Northern Shoveler:** Seventy-one lingered into winter and were tallied on CBCs; small numbers wintered at traditional spots such as Castalia Pond in **Erie**.

**Northern Pintail:** This hardy species was pushed out early, as evidenced by a mere 72 reported from CBCs. The only notable flock reported was 30 at Ottawa NWR on 06 Dec (Doug Vogus). The usual early northward push didn't materialize in late Feb.

**Green-winged Teal:** Unlike last winter, when numbers well above normal lingered into winter, this year numbers were low. Only 47 were reported from CBCs. Midwinter reports were scarce, but 15 to 20 were noted in **Muskingum** on 16 Jan (Jim McCormac).

**Canvasback:** Always variable from winter to winter, sometimes wildly so. Extremely lean this winter, with only 135 reported from statewide CBCs — about one-tenth of normal numbers. Most reports were from Lake Erie, but numbers there were also quite low.

**Redhead:** Small numbers wintered where open water could be found; the 235 reported from CBCs was near the 20-year annual average.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Down a little but not much, and widely reported in small numbers throughout the season. The CBC total of 713 was down only 184 birds from last winter's count.

**Greater Scaup:** The 1,406 reported from CBCs was a very high total, and most of them — 1,151 — were found on the Toledo CBC in **Lucas** on 20 Dec. The majority of birds reported were from western Lake Erie, although 323 were reported from **Lake** on 11 Dec (John Pogacnik). 915 was a big count for Kelleys Island, **Erie**, on 20 Jan (Tom Bartlett, Sandy Tkach).

**Lesser Scaup:** Three-quarters of all the 4,391 Lesser Scaup reported from statewide CBCs came from the Toledo CBC; western Lake Erie's Maumee Bay is a major staging area. Much smaller numbers were reported from widely scattered sites throughout the winter.

**eider sp.:** The only eider reported was one flyby in with a flock of six Surf Scoters over Lake Erie on 06 Dec in **Lake**. Details couldn't be made out well enough to determine species, but odds favor King Eider. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**Harlequin Duck:** The only report was of an immature male in **Lake** on 11 Dec (John Pogacnik).

**Surf Scoter:** Three were found on CBCs; a maximum of two were at Sims Park in **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson). John Pogacnik tallied a total of 18, mostly in Dec, from his Lake Erie lookout in **Lake**.

**White-winged Scoter:** About seven were found, almost all on Lake Erie and mostly in Dec. Additionally, 53 were reported on statewide CBCs, but 50 of those were found on the Elyria-Lorain CBC, **Lorain**, on 19 Dec. I have no details documenting this extraordinary count.

**Black Scoter:** Six were reported from CBCs, with five of them found on the Lake Erie Islands CBC on 20 Dec. Non-CBC birds totaled about 28, mostly in Dec and nearly all from Lake Erie. The high count was 10 on 05 Dec at Sims Park in **Cuyahoga** (Nancy Anderson).

**Long-tailed Duck:** A total of 24 was reported, nearly all from Lake Erie, with high tallies of five on the Lake Erie Islands CBC on 20 Dec, and six in **Lake** on 11 Dec (John Pogacnik). Noteworthy was a bird on the Ohio River in **Muskingum** on 11 Feb (Barb Hohman), and one on Berlin Reservoir, **Portage**, on 05 Jan (Ben Morrison).

**Bufflehead:** The vicinity of the Lake Erie islands in **Erie** and **Ottawa** remains a major early-winter staging area. Of the 3,545 reported on statewide CBCs, 3,217 were found on the Lake Erie Islands CBC on 20 Dec.

**Common Goldeneye:** Tough winter weather pushed this hardy species south in above average numbers. Last winter, CBCs reported 3,021; this winter that total was more than doubled to 6,300. Over half of the CBC total



*Hybrids are fairly common between many duck species. This bird is an apparent hybrid between Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser, two species that belong to different genera. Gabe Laidy photographed this bird at East 72nd Street in Cleveland, **Cuyahoga**, on 20 Feb.*

came from the Lake Erie Islands CBC, **Erie** and **Ottawa**, which found 3,255. Of great interest was a well-documented **Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye** hybrid found in **Cuyahoga** on 20 Feb (Ivan Yoder, Gabe Leidy).

**Hooded Merganser:** The 846 reported from CBCs was slightly ahead of last year's total of 814. The Scioto River in central Ohio is a wintering stronghold; many individuals were seen in the Columbus area, **Franklin**, on the river on 28 Feb (Rob Thorn). Many if not all of these birds wintered locally. See note under Common Goldeneye about an interesting hybrid.

**Common Merganser:** These big ducks are tough as nails, as evidenced by the 3,600 found during an aerial survey of the eastern half of Lake Erie on 01 Feb (Jim McCormac). The lake was largely frozen and the mergansers were occupying open leads. The total CBC tally of 7,705 was up considerably from the previous year's 3,445.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The 56,015 reported from all CBCs was the third-highest count in the past 20 years. The vast majority of birds were found along Lake Erie, in **Cuyahoga, Lake**, and **Lorain**.

**Ruddy Duck:** There seemed to be more of these little stiftails around than normal; the 817 reported from CBCs far eclipsed last winter's 445. The Hoover Reservoir CBC in **Delaware** on 19 Dec accounted for 303 of this winter's CBC total.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Below average numbers — 46 — were reported from CBCs. Other reports barely mentioned pheasants, although Robert Royse mentioned seeing “many” at Deer Creek WA, **Fayette**, on 11 Jan, and a self-sustaining population that probably numbers a few hundred birds persists in a 1,000-acre Conservation Reserve Program grassland in **Pickaway** (Jim McCormac).

**Ruffed Grouse:** This secretive species is seldom reported, especially when males are not drumming. The five reported from all CBCs is not an accurate barometer of their Ohio status. Although the species is at or near historic lows, the violent wind storms that cut a broad swath across southern Ohio forestland in winter 2003-04 created locally abundant grouse habitat and their numbers have spiked in some of those areas. Censuses conducted statewide by the Ohio Division of Wildlife in 2009 resulted in reports of 262 birds, and 208 in 2010.

**Wild Turkey:** Last year's record CBC count of 2,424 was barely edged out by this winter's CBC total of 2,479. Turkeys are gobbling everywhere these days, it seems.

**Northern Bobwhite:** The wild rollercoaster ride of our only native quail continues. Last year, 35 were reported from three southern Ohio CBCs; this year there were no CBC reports. The only report made came from **Meigs** on 26 Dec, when a covey of 10 was found (Tracy Morman).

**Red-throated Loon:** Six individuals were detected by John Pogacnik in

**Lake** as part of his long-term Lake Erie surveys: singles on 05 and 12 Dec, an impressive three on 11 Dec, and one on 01 Jan. One was found elsewhere in **Lake** on 31 Dec (Nate Nye). All of these preceding birds were on Lake Erie. The only non-Lake Erie bird was one found in **Clark** on 13 Dec (Michael Hatfield).

**Common Loon:** The 23 reported on CBCs was 10 more than last winter, but still about 10 under the annual average of the last decade. There were only about a half-dozen other birds reported in Dec, and no reports from Jan or Feb.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** CBCs reported 154 statewide, which is a big increase over last winter's 86 reports, but still a bit under the annual average for the past decade.

**Horned Grebe:** Only 15 were reported from CBCs; well under the annual average of 45 over the past decade. About 23 others were reported from scattered locales statewide.

**Red-necked Grebe:** The only report was of one bird on Lake Erie in **Lake** on 06 Feb (John Pogacnik).

**Northern Gannet:** An observer spotted what he believed to be a bird of this species in flight near New Bedford in **Coshocton** on 06 Feb. Some of his description included the following: "a large seabird flying — white with long-pointed wings, and the bird was close enough that he even saw the tan coloring on the head" (Bobolink Area rare bird alert phone line). This description obviously points to an adult, and of the several dozen confirmed Ohio records, all are of

juvenile birds. Also, nearly all records come from the Nov through early Jan period; there is only one documented Feb occurrence. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**American White Pelican:**

Amazingly, three were found. Jill Bowers discovered two on Grand Lake St. Marys in **Mercer** on 06 Dec; they apparently were present for much of the month. Another was found on the Great Miami River in **Butler** on 14 Dec (Sam Fitton); it remained until at least 20 Dec.

**Double-crested Cormorant:**

Only 24 were found on CBCs, well under the 149 reported last year and the 326 of the winter prior to that. Cormorants are semi-hardy and their low numbers reflect a tough winter. A few overwintering birds were reported from the Cleveland lakefront and the Scioto River in **Franklin**.

**Great Blue Heron:** The 906 reported from CBCs statewide was one of the lowest tallies of the past decade.

**Great Egret:** Always a major wintertime rarity, thus the one seen on 01 Feb in **Delaware** was a surprise (Craig Moore).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:**

This winter, a record high 105 were reported from CBCs. Perhaps there are more of these secretive herons sticking out the winters, or birders are becoming more adept at finding their roosts; most likely it is a combination of these factors.

**Black Vulture:** This year's CBC total of 501 birds was the lowest tally of the past five winters, and only about half of last year's total of 995. Highly mobile vultures are opportunistic winterers in Ohio, moving farther south when severe winter weather makes feeding difficult.

**Turkey Vulture:** A situation mirroring that of the Black Vulture, with tough winter conditions pushing this species southward. The 613 found on CBCs was the lowest tally of the past seven winters.

**Bald Eagle:** This species continues to boom; the 418 reported from CBCs shattered the previous year's record of 304. Although most birds, such as the 22 counted on an aerial survey from Cleveland to Conneaut on 01 Feb (Jim McCormac), are found along Lake Erie, reports were scattered around all parts of Ohio.

**Northern Harrier:** The 255 tallied on CBCs was the lowest count in three years, but only slightly lower than the annual average of 278 over the past decade. Numbers were low at traditional hotspots such as Killdeer Plains WA and The Wilds.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Your season editor is an avowed skeptic of CBC data as it pertains to this often-misidentified raptor. That said, CBCs statewide reported 131, which would be an all-time high. Away from CBCs, only small numbers were reported, from widely scattered locales.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Although branding this species as the default wintertime *Accipiter* in Ohio is perhaps going too far, it is by far the most likely. There

were 560 reported from CBCs this season, a new record. This species has adapted to human habitat alterations far better than has the Sharp-shinned Hawk, and numbers have steadily increased over the past two decades. The CBC total in the winter of 1989–90 was 180 — about average for that era.

**Northern Goshawk:** Amazingly, this giant *Accipiter* has been reported in all but six of the last 30 CBCs. Some of them were probably even correctly identified. This winter, two came to light, one from the Rudolph CBC on 19 Dec and one on the Grand Rapids–Waterville CBC on 22 Dec. Although I have not seen details on these birds, both counts are in northwestern Ohio, where Northern Goshawk is probably most likely, and both counts are vetted by expert birders. The only other report was of an immature bird perched on a telephone wire in *Cuyahoga* on 27 Jan (Gabe Leidy).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The 300 reported from CBCs statewide was the second-highest total ever, and it offers more evidence that this beautiful *Buteo* is continuing to expand its population as Ohio's forests mature.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There is no risk of this species losing its position as Ohio's most common raptor. The 2,666 reported from CBCs is the third-highest count ever, and it far eclipses the CBC total of the next most frequent raptor, the American Kestrel.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** These Arctic-breeding meadow vole munchers show fairly regular peaks and valleys in their wintertime wanderings into Ohio (see the graph in *The Ohio Cardinal* 32[2]:



57). Two or three consecutive winters of high numbers are followed by one or two years of low numbers. This winter, 97 were reported from CBCs, well below the annual average of 136 reported from CBCs over the past decade.

**Golden Eagle:** One bird was seen throughout the season at the Wilds, *Muskingum*, and on 24 Jan, two were reported (Doug Vogus). Is Killdeer Plains WA in *Wyandot* becoming a regular winter haunt? One was there much of last winter, and another or the same bird was found on 15 Feb (Matt Carity, Heather Chute, John Kuenzli). An injured subadult bird was found in *Adams* on 04 Dec and taken to Raptor, Inc., a rehabilitation facility on Cincinnati (Jeff Hays).

**American Kestrel:** One has to go back to the CBC of winter 2000-01 to find a lower kestrel count than this season's, in which 845 were reported from CBCs statewide. That is the third-lowest tally in 30 years. See *The Ohio Cardinal* 32(2): 59 for a chart documenting the steady downward slide of this charismatic little falcon.

**Merlin:** Only slightly behind last year's CBC total of 20 was this year's tally of 17, the second- highest CBC count ever. At least a dozen others were reported elsewhere throughout the season, and large urban cemeteries such as Spring Grove in Cincinnati, Green Lawn in Columbus, and Calvary in Cleveland continue to host one to a few wintering birds. Birders should check golf courses as well; these tend to be largely open habitats with scattered trees and may also harbor wintering Merlins.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Peregrines are wintertime fixtures at the approximately 35 sites where they now nest, most of them in large urban areas. There were few reports away from known breeding sites, and all or nearly all other reports likely pertained to wandering permanent residents.

**Virginia Rail:** The only report was of a bird found "in a snowdrift" in *Summit* on 08 Jan. It was taken to the Medina Raptor Center.

**American Coot:** Our hardiest rallid was found in good numbers. The 2,436 reported from CBCs was nearly the same as the 2,445 reported last winter and well above the annual average of the last decade.

**Sandhill Crane:** An incredible tally of 974 was reported from CBCs, obliterating last year's record count of 508 and reflective of the rapidly increasing eastern populations of this species. There was a conspicuous — and later than normal — passage of cranes through the western half of the state on 11 and 12 Dec, with numerous reports totaling nearly 800 birds. The largest roost was noted at Deer Creek WA in *Fayette* on 13 Dec, where up to 1,000 birds were noted (Jean Foor, Mary Alice Sims).

**Killdeer:** The number of Killdeer found in winter is largely dictated by the severity of the weather. This winter, 262 were reported from CBCs, which is just a tad above the annual average of 256 of the past decade. There were hardly any midwinter reports, and no obvious push of northbound migrants had become apparent by the end of Feb, as is usually the case.

**American Avocet:** An exceptionally late bird was found at Toledo's Cullen Park, **Lucas**, last November and lingered until at least 05 Dec (Chuck Anderson, Matt Kemp). This is one of only perhaps three Dec records.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** One was reported on the Brown Family Environmental Center CBC, **Knox**, on 20 Dec. This is an extraordinary report, and it would be one of only a half-dozen or fewer Dec records. I have seen no details.

**yellowlegs sp.:** Barb Hohman made the following report from **Washington** on 20 Feb: "I saw a bird flying southbound close to the side of the road about eye level. It had the shape and color of a yellowlegs. I did note the long yellow legs sticking out behind the tail. I'm not sure if the tail was white, but the rest of the bird, color, wing shape and size are all right for the shorebird." Greater Yellowlegs do sometimes appear by late Feb in southern Ohio.

**Calidris sp.:** A dark-legged *Calidris* sandpiper that was either a Semipalmated or Western was found at Maumee Bay SP, **Lucas**, on 05 Dec (Chuck Anderson, Matt Kemp) and it was again observed the following day. Photos and video were made, but they are not good enough to determine the species with certainty. All positively identified Dec records — there are few — have been Westerns.

**Least Sandpiper:** Up to three spent much of the season in the vicinity of a large gravel bar on the Great Miami River in **Hamilton**. One was last reported on 14 Feb (Mike Busam). An amazing seven were reported from

CBCs, but three of those were on the Ohio River (IN–OH–KY) CBC and are the three aforementioned birds. Three others were reported from the Wooster CBC, **Wayne**, on 26 Dec, and another was reported from the Hamilton–Fairfield CBC on 19 Dec.

**Purple Sandpiper:** One was discovered on the Lake Erie Islands CBC on 20 Dec, and this bird, incredibly, was the only report of the season. Harsh winter weather apparently discouraged them from lingering. Last winter, a more typical tally of five birds was reported.

**Dunlin:** Above-normal numbers were reported: one in **Cuyahoga** on 10 Dec (Steve Cagan); one on the Lake Erie Islands CBC on 20 Dec; an impressive five at Sheldon Marsh SNP in **Erie** on 20 Dec (Charles Crawford); and one at Huron, **Erie**, on 24 Dec (Gabe Leidy).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Five late and undoubtedly juvenile birds were seen at Huron, **Erie**, on 05 Dec (Gabe Leidy).

**Wilson's Snipe:** The 30 reported from CBCs statewide sounds impressive, but it is below the annual average of 39 over the past decade. Ten others were reported from widely scattered locales throughout the season.

**American Woodcock:** Noteworthy for its absence, there were no reports of this semi-hardy species. A displaying male was reported the day after the season ended, on 01 March in **Clermont** (Donald Morse).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Sparsely

reported. Only 5,935 were tallied on CBCs statewide, which is about one-seventh of the usual numbers. Most reports from CBCs and otherwise were from Lake Erie, but no concentrations over 5,000 individuals were reported.

**Little Gull:** Only two reports, which is well below average (at least 10 were reported last winter). An adult was in **Lake** on 12 Dec (John Pogacnik), and a first-cycle bird was at Huron, **Erie**, on 24 Dec (Gabe Leidy).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The 137,255 reported from CBCs statewide is the second highest count in the past decade. Although most were counted along Lake Erie, good numbers were also tallied along inland rivers and reservoirs.

**California Gull:** The only report was of an adult at Lorain Harbor, **Lorain**, on 24 Jan. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**Herring Gull:** The 27, 272 reported from CBCs was the second-highest total in the past decade. Nearly all of them were found along Lake Erie, as is typical.

**Thayer's Gull:** Only six were reported — about half of last year's number — and all were along Lake Erie.

**Iceland Gull:** Lower than normal numbers — perhaps nine individuals — were reported along Lake Erie throughout the season. Impressive were six birds found along the Maumee River, **Lucas** and **Wood**, on 18 Jan (Tom Kemp, Steve Stockford).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This European species was first found in Ohio in 1977. It was first recorded on a CBC in winter 1981-82, and has been found on CBCs every year since, in ever-increasing numbers. This year's CBC count of 37 shatters last winter's total of 19. Twenty-eight of the gulls were found on Toledo-area counts. All reports were from Lake Erie or its immediate vicinity.

**Glaucous Gull:** Following last winter's record-setting numbers, this Arctic visitor was way down this winter — perhaps only a third as many as last winter were reported, nearly all of them from Lake Erie. Noteworthy was a first-cycle bird found on the Great Miami River, **Montgomery**, on 12 Jan (Dave Collopy).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** The 408 tallied on CBCs statewide was a bit below the average of 486 reported over the past decade. The only significant one-day tally was 500 counted during an aerial survey in the vicinity of the Avon Lake power plant on 01 Feb (Jim McCormac). No reports away from Lake Erie were received.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** The only report was of a bird in **Lucas** on 27 Dec (John Pogacnik).

**Rock Pigeon:** As no observers generally comment on this species, CBC data provides the most useful barometer of the overall population. This season, CBCs statewide tallied 17,767, a bit below the average of 19,508 reported over the past five years.

**White-winged Dove:** One turned up at Dick Beery's feeders in **Wayne** on 24 Dec; it remained until at least 02 Jan. This is at least the 10th Ohio record; our first was in 2000.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** The only report was of three in **Mercer** on 08 Jan. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**Mourning Dove:** Not often commented on by observers, so CBC data are exceptionally useful to gauge populations. The 22,678 counted this winter is just a tad below the 24,754 annual average of the past decade.

**Barn Owl:** This threatened species has been reported on the last 12 consecutive CBCs, with a high tally of 43 in winter 2006–07. This winter, 13 were found, well under the annual average of 17 over the past 12 years. The only other reports were of singles in **Clinton** on 18 Feb (Bob Powell), **Ross** on 26 Dec (Dave Graham), and **Jefferson** on 01 Dec (Scott Pendleton). The latter bird was brought to a veterinarian in an emaciated condition and suffering from a slight injury. As of the last report, it was accepting food and gaining weight.

**Great Horned Owl:** CBC data are quite useful for assessing owl populations, as special efforts are often made to census owls. This season, 182 Great Horned Owls were counted statewide — one more than last winter's total and the highest count of the last eight years.

**Snowy Owl:** Only two reports: one on the Sandusky Bay Bridge, **Ottawa**,

on 19 Dec (John Pogacnik), and one was found at Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**, on 24 Dec (Nick Taylor). The latter bird was seen sporadically through Dec.

**Barred Owl:** Going strong; the 124 found on CBCs statewide was only two birds shy of last year's record-setting total of 126.

**Long-eared Owl:** It was either a lean year for this secretive species, or people were not making roost sites known. Only 10 were reported from CBCs. A traditional roost in **Wyandot** had a peak count of eight birds on 20 Feb (Ken Ostermiller). Another roost in **Lucas** had up to four birds throughout Dec (Matt Anderson). Singles were found in **Delaware** on 20 Dec (Sean Williams), and **Darke** on 01 Jan (Regina Schieltz).

**Short-eared Owl:** Relatively few reports, even from traditional wintering strongholds. The 30 reported from CBCs statewide was slightly below the annual average of 34 over the last decade. The annual CBC average for the previous decade — 1999 to 2008 — was 54.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Either birders have gotten better at finding these tiny, secretive owls or there were more around to find. CBCs reported a record total of 15, smashing last year's record of nine. Other reports include three caught and banded in **Hocking** on 05 Dec (Tim Tolford); one in **Cuyahoga** on 14 Dec (Jennifer Lenhart); and one in **Lake** on 03 Feb (Sally Isacco).

**Allen's Hummingbird:** Without doubt the bird of the season. Ohio's first record of this western species was confirmed on 11 Dec, when Allen Chartier captured and banded a bird that had been visiting a *Holmes* feeder since October. It proved to be a hatch-year male. Thanks are due to Mae Miller, the gracious homeowner who kept the feeders stocked and tolerated the hundreds of birders who visited. The Allen's Hummingbird was last seen on 28 Dec. The documentation by Allen, which included detailed photographs of the diagnostic tail feathers, was accepted by the OBRC.



**Belted Kingfisher:** The 315 reported from CBCs statewide is about average for recent years.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** An up year for this woodpecker, whose fortunes are tied to the cyclical production of mast crops, especially acorns (see *The Ohio Cardinal* 32[2]: 66-67). CBCs reported 232, well above last winter's 181.



**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Another record obliterated: this year's CBC grand total of 4,709 beats the previous winter's CBC tally of 4,308, which had been the all-time high. Needless to say *Melanerpes carolinus* is still on a roll.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The CBC total of 133 was well under last winter's record-setting 187. Still, it well above the annual average of 110 over the last decade.

**Downy Woodpecker:** This winter's CBC total of 6,471 easily bested the previous record of 6,007 recorded on CBCs in winter 2006-07. One must

*This hatch-year male Allen's Hummingbird was banded by Allen Chartier, and his excellent documentation was sufficient to establish this as the first Ohio record of this species. Allen's Hummingbird is the sixth species of hummingbird added to the Ohio state list. Differentiating Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds, especially immature and female individuals, is difficult and often requires in-hand examination. The second tail feather from the center (termed rectrix 2, or R2) shows a notch on the inner vane only in Rufous Hummingbird; the notch is absent on this bird. This bird's right R5 is obscured in the bander's fingers, and both R4s are missing due to active molt. The white tip on the left R5 indicates that the feather is retained from the immature plumage, whereas R1, R2, and R3 are freshly molted adult feathers. Both photos were taken 11 Dec by Bruce Glick.*

wonder what temporarily beneficial impact the runaway proliferation of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is having on woodpecker populations. Downy Woodpecker is notoriously opportunistic and almost certainly exploits borer grubs, which can occur in great densities.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Another CBC record: the 1,168 tallied on counts this winter bested the previous high of 1,154 recorded in winter 2007–08. In addition to the possible Emerald Ash Borer factor discussed in the Downy Woodpecker account, the overall maturation of Ohio’s forests is likely causing expansion of this species’ population.

**Northern Flicker:** The 512 reported from CBCs statewide was second only to last winter’s record-setting tally of 614.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** This species continues to hold its own and is at record highs. CBCs counted 642 statewide, a total topped only slightly by counts in the previous two winters.

**Eastern Phoebe:** A dozen were found on CBCs, about par for most winters. Outside of CBC reports, there was one Jan report, a bird in **Clermont** on 01 Jan (Jay Lehman).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The only report of this Ohio endangered species came from the **Adams** County CBC on 19 Dec, a region that probably still harbors a few nesting pairs. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**Northern Shrike:** Only eight were reported from CBCs — well below last year’s total of 18. Outside of CBCs, individual birds were reported from the following counties: **Cuyahoga, Delaware, Geauga, Lucas, Medina, Summit, Wayne,** and **Wyandot.**

**White-eyed Vireo:** One was reported from the **Clark** County CBC on 18 Dec. Although they’re quite rare in winter, there are a handful of Dec records.

**Blue Jay:** Wintering numbers have an interesting yo-yo pattern over the long term. This winter’s CBC haul of 11,122 is a near record, and it is slightly ahead of last winter’s total of 10,889. During the previous winter, the CBC total was only 9,686. The abundance of wintering jays correlates with tree mast production, especially oaks and acorns.

**American Crow:** Crow are on a major roll: the total CBC tally this winter was an astonishing 96,625, obliterating the previous record of 61,967 recorded in winter 2001–02. This year’s count was also nearly double last winter’s CBC total of 49,003. The five highest CBC counts were as follows: **Clark** County – 30,000; Mansfield – 24,000; Ragersville – 10,996; Youngstown – 4,227; and Western **Hamilton** County – 3,034. Four of these five count locations are highly urban and harbor long-established roosts.

**Common Raven:** The only report was of a pair that had been frequenting the vicinity of New Matamoras in northern **Washington**

intermittently through the winter. The OBRC did not receive documentation for this sighting.

**Horned Lark:** See *The Ohio Cardinal* 32(2):68 for a graph that depicts the roughly every-other-year boom and bust cycle of Horned Lark. Last winter, CBCs reported a total of 6,643; this year the tally was 18,083, lending additional supporting evidence to the alternating year booms and busts.

**Purple Martin:** An adult female remained in *Wayne* until at least 01 Jan (Jason Larson). It was fed mealworms; free-flying insects — its normal fare — are tough to find in winter. The bird was apparently healthy and capable of flight, and it had successfully nested the previous summer. This is easily the latest Ohio record.

**Carolina Chickadee:** The 9,628 reported from CBCs statewide is a new record high, easily eclipsing last year's record of 8,511. The annual CBC average over the past 20 years is 6,303.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** This species is not showing the strong population increases of the Carolina Chickadee, at least from CBC data. CBCs counted 5,004; the annual average over the past 20 years is 4,453.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Ohio's members of the family Paridae are certainly thriving. A new record high of 8,689 was reported from CBCs, easily smashing the previous high count of 7,615 totaled in winter 2001–02.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** This irruptive species spikes about every other year or two, and this wasn't a boom year. Only 180 were reported from CBCs statewide, down even from last year's poor count of 386. During the winter of 2007–08, 696 birds were reported.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Urban-adapted tree-gleaners such as chickadees, titmice, and woodpeckers are thriving, and add this species to the pool of winners. CBCs reported 5,821, eclipsing the previous record, set last winter, of 5,706.

**Brown Creeper:** The 661 reported from CBCs is just about average for the past decade.

**Carolina Wren:** The 1,946 reported from CBCs statewide is the lowest count of the past eight winters, and well down from the record CBC tally of 4,859 in winter 2006–07.

**House Wren:** All reports came from CBCs, and your season editor is skeptical of House Wren reports with no details reported from CBCs. I concur with Peterjohn's (2001: p. 376) statement: "...averaging one acceptable sighting every two to four years." This winter, five were reported from two CBCs. One was found on the Hoover Reservoir CBC, *Delaware*, on 19 Dec. In what were certainly multiple misidentifications, four were reported from the Brown Family Environmental Center CBC in *Knox* on 20 Dec. This count also recorded a Spotted Sandpiper, which is as astonishing as the wrens.

**Winter Wren:** The 74 reported from CBCs was close to the 20-year annual average.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** CBCs reported 1,028 statewide, which is nearing the low end of one of this species' peaks. See *The Ohio Cardinal* 31(2): 29 for a long-term graph of kinglet distribution and other thoughts on their winter status.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Always a wintertime rarity, even fewer than normal were reported this year. CBCs claimed 11, and there were only three other reports outside of CBCs.

**Eastern Bluebird:** Doing well, and these open-country thrushes may want to thank people for all of the boxes that we put up. The 5,304 reported from CBCs is the third-highest tally ever.

**Hermit Thrush:** The 109 found on CBCs statewide was the fifth-highest number ever recorded and well above the long-term average. This thrush is extremely secretive and easily overlooked in winter, but at least in the hill country can often be found around colonies of fruiting sumac (*Rhus* sp.).

**American Robin:** This winter, 37,640 were tallied on CBCs — the second-highest total ever. See *The Ohio Cardinal* 31(2): 30 for more detailed information explaining the meteoric rise of wintering robins.

**Varied Thrush:** One appeared at the feeders of Bob and Judy Gucker in *Wyandot* on 13 Jan; it was last seen the next day (*vide* Tom Bartlett). The Guckers' written report, which included Tom's photo, was accepted by the OBRC.

**Gray Catbird:** A big winter for this half-hardy species, with a record-setting 23 reported from CBCs and five others elsewhere.



*Gray Catbirds are increasingly sighted attempting to overwinter in Ohio, and this winter broke records for the number of individuals reported around the state. Bernie Master photographed this individual at his home in Worthington, Franklin, on 06 Feb.*

**Northern Mockingbird:** CBCs reported 944, about average for the past decade.

**Brown Thrasher:** Few thrashers remain in Ohio in winter, and those that do are easily missed. The only reports came from CBCs, and totaled 10 birds, which is about average for the past decade.

**European Starling:** Few observers report on this species, making CBC data valuable for trying to decipher any trends in this invasive species. The 243,168 reported from CBCs gives the starling the distinction of being the most abundant wintertime bird. The next most frequent species was the Ring-billed Gull, with 137,255 individuals reported. Believe it or not, this year's starling tally is well off the CBC record of 321,602 from winter 2003-04.



**American Pipit:** An all-time CBC high was set with 620 reported and sightings widely scattered across the state. About 50 other pipits were reported from various locales throughout the season.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Waxwings become highly frugivorous (fruit-eating) in winter, and seem to have benefited from bumper crops of copiously fruiting invasive honeysuckle bushes. However, for unknown reasons, their numbers were very low this winter. The 2,012 reported from CBCs is less than half the number reported last winter and well under the annual CBC average of 2,894 over the past 20 years.

**Yellow Warbler:** There were two reports, incredibly, from the northeastern part of the state. A male was found by James Yoder in **Holmes**, and either a female or immature was seen elsewhere in the general region (dates and observer of latter sighting unknown).

**Cape May Warbler:** Most Cape May Warblers winter in the Caribbean, but they are surprisingly hardy and there are at least a dozen winter records. Three more records occurred this winter: one bird appeared at a **Hocking** feeder in early Jan and remained through Feb (Allen Chartier, Jim Fry); another was a one-day wonder at a **Hamilton** feeder (Lori Brumbaugh). The third visited a **Holmes** feeder for part of the winter and was recorded on the Ragersville CBC on 29 Dec.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** CBCs found 782 statewide, which is well above the average of the past 20 years.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** An incredible three came to light this winter; there had been only perhaps six previous winter records. One visited feeders in **Hamilton** until at least 01 Dec; it had been present prior to the start of this season (Michael Rohe, Jack Berninger). Another frequented feeders in **Summit** from 15 Dec until it was found dead on 02 Jan (Sue Pryor, Sally Isacco, Paul Kiplinger). The specimen is preserved in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's ornithology collection (specimen #71123). One visited a **Holmes** feeder for several weeks in Dec (Bruce Glick).

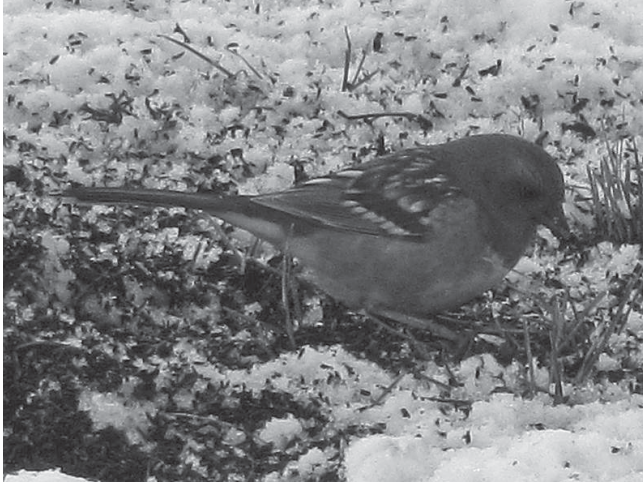
**Pine Warbler:** Along with Yellow-rumped Warblers, these are the "tough guys" of the warbler world and winter reports are expected. The four reported from CBCs is about average. Surprisingly, only two others were reported.



*Ohio always hosts several species of warblers over the winter, and Pine Warbler is one of the more expected species to last through the harsh conditions. Bernie Master photographed this individual at a suet feeder in Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Franklin, on 24 Dec.*

**Common Yellowthroat:** Four were reported from CBCs, the second-highest total ever but a number that has been matched at least four times in winters past. The only other report was from **Summit** on 15 Dec (Nancy Howell).

**Spotted Towhee:** One turned up at a *Holmes* feeder in the last week in Feb and remained through the end of the season (Su Snyder). The record was accepted by the OBRC.



*Only a handful of records exist for Spotted Towhee in Ohio, though certainly some were overlooked during the long era when this species was taxonomically lumped with Eastern Towhee under the moniker Rufous-sided Towhee. Gabe Leidy photographed this Spotted Towhee on 27 Feb at Holmesville, Holmes.*

**Eastern Towhee:** The 591 reported from CBCs was a bit above the annual average of the past decade.

**American Tree Sparrow:**

Numbers fluctuate considerably from winter to winter, probably due to availability of food crops both in Ohio and elsewhere in the range. This winter, 16,884 were recorded on CBCs statewide, the second-highest tally ever.

**Chipping Sparrow:** CBCs claimed 24 in total. That seems like a lot — this species is a rarity in winter — but that is about typical for CBC reports. It seems highly likely that many CBC reports are misidentifications. There were only two other reports, both indisputable.

**Field Sparrow:** The CBC annual average over the past 20 years is nearly 400, so this year's total of 290 seems quite low.

**Vesper Sparrow:** This is not a hardy species and wintertime records are few and far between. One found on the Toledo CBC on 20 Dec was the only report.

**Lark Sparrow:** A very rare find, one was recorded from the Western *Hamilton* County CBC on 20 Dec.

**Savannah Sparrow:** This species is either on the upswing as a wintering species, or birders are becoming more adept at finding them or perhaps more prone to misidentifying them. Whatever the case, 61 were reported from CBCs, the third-highest total ever. It is possible that a significant increase in Conservation Reserve Program acreage and the grassland habitats produced as a result of this program is providing “new” habitat and causing an increase in wintering sparrow numbers.

**Fox Sparrow:** The 57 reported from CBCs is well above the average of the past decade.



*How many Fox Sparrows are visiting your yard? Bernie Master recorded a maximum of three Fox Sparrows at a time in his yard in Worthington, Franklin, over the course of the winter. However, he approached the problem by taking photos through his breakfast window and comparing the shapes and patterns of breast markings on each visitor to assess how many individuals were actually in his yard. This sample of images was taken between 02 and 20 Dec and shows four of the 13 individuals that he was able to distinguish from his photographs. Other markings such as crown, auricular, and back color, as well as extent of the malar, could be used to help distinguish individuals.*

**Song Sparrow:** This is another ubiquitous and easily identified species that is seldom reported on but for which CBC data are useful in evaluating trends. This winter's CBC total was 8,097. The annual CBC average over the past decade is 7,891.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** A staggering four were reported: three on the Toledo CBC on 20 Dec and one on the Ragersville CBC on 29 Dec. Indisputable records of Lincoln's Sparrows during winter are extremely few, and three on one bird count is stupefying. This is a species prone to misidentification.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Numbers of winter Swamp Sparrows have been steadily increasing, and this year's CBC haul of 582 is about 60 birds above the annual average of the last decade.

**White-throated Sparrow:** A species that is decidedly on the upswing in winter, at least through Dec. This year's CBC total of 5,646 is ahead of the annual average of 5,429 of the last decade (winters 2000–01 to 2009–10). The previous decade (winters 1990–91 to 1999–2000), the annual average was 2,969. It is possible that the incredible proliferation of exotic bush honeysuckles has favored this species; the shrubs form apparently suitable cover for this species and the sparrows may utilize honeysuckle fruit.

**Harris's Sparrow:** The only report of this western vagrant came from the Western *Hamilton* County CBC on 20 Dec. The documentation submitted to the OBRC did not eliminate other possible species so it was not accepted.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The 2,523 tallied on CBCs statewide was a bit under the annual average of 2,981 over the past decade. Noteworthy were reports of three of the 'Gambel's' subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*): two at Portage feeders during the third week in Feb (Greg Cudworth, Judy Semroc) and one at a Stark feeder on 06 Feb (Shari Jackson, Ronnie Macko). Records of this white-lored western subspecies should always be noted.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The most abundant sparrow reported this winter, as evidenced by the 16,918 tallied on CBCs statewide. This is the second-highest CBC total ever. At least four individuals of the western 'Oregon' subspecies group were reported.

**Lapland Longspur:** CBCs found 2,005 statewide, and that's a lot of longspurs — the third-highest total ever. The Rudolph CBC found 1,205 of them on 19 Dec.



*White-throated Sparrows winter commonly in southern Ohio, but their abundance decreases as one moves north through the state. Dave Lewis photographed this individual in Bay Village, Cuyahoga, on 09 Jan.*

**Snow Bunting:** Mediocre numbers were reported, including 1,453 from CBCs, which almost exactly matches the annual average of 1,484 over the past decade.

**Northern Cardinal:** Once again, our state bird was the most frequently reported feeder visitor, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. CBC data bear out their abundance: the 23,294 total is the highest ever and evidence that this adaptable species continues to flourish.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A male in basic plumage turned up at a *Delaware* feeder on 27 Dec and remained through 03 Jan (Ben Warner). There have been over a dozen records from the winter months.



*Your typical Rose-breasted Grosbeak spends the winter months in Mexico or points farther south (into South America), but more than 10 individuals have been historically recorded attempting to overwinter in Ohio. Many disappear before winter's end, presumably victims of cold weather. Dave Slager photographed this bird in Delaware, 03 Jan.*

**Indigo Bunting:** There are probably fewer than a dozen legitimate records of this Neotropical migrant in winter, thus it was surprising that two came

to light in a single season. A first-year male appeared at a Perry feeder in mid-November — preceding this season — and remained until at least 08 Feb (Joe Faulkner). It had an injured wing but was free-flying. Another was photographed at a feeder, but with no specifics on exact locale or dates, in northeast Ohio (Yvonne Surfronko).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Wintering blackbirds typically fluctuate significantly in numbers from year to year, depending on the severity of weather and whether any large roosts are found and reported. This winter's CBC total of 34,763 was a near record, and the big number was due in large measure to large roosts found on the Ottawa NWR CBC on 03 Jan (11,241 birds), and the Fremont CBC on 20 Dec (19,924 birds).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Some always stick out the winter, probably more than we think; wintering meadowlarks can be hard to find. This winter's CBC total of 415 was well above the approximate annual CBC average of 250 and is the second-largest tally ever.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** A male was detected among a mixed flock of 200 Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles on 23 Jan in *Cuyahoga* (Craig Rieker), and one was reported on the Ottawa NWR CBC on 03 Jan.

**Rusty Blackbird:** This species is thought to be in a rapid state of decline, thus this winter's CBC total of 1,233 was encouraging; it is the second highest count ever. Away from CBCs, however, reports were sparse.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Always a wintertime rarity and prone to misidentification. Two were reported from the *Adams* County CBC on 19 Dec, and “a few” were reported mixed with large blackbird flocks in *Sandusky* on 06 Jan (Craig Caldwell).

**Common Grackle:** See remarks under Red-winged Blackbird about winter blackbirds. The CBC total was 83,489, and 72,183 of them were found on the Fremont CBC on 20 Dec.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** The 9,058 found on CBCs statewide is well above the average of 6,372 over the past decade.

**Purple Finch:** This species is cyclically irruptive, and tends to be present in relatively large numbers two or three winters in a row, followed by one or two “bust” winters with lean numbers. CBCs reported 236, which is fairly high; we are due for a bust winter next season or the one thereafter. It should be noted that Purple Finch is very easy to miss in winter, and one should become familiar with their soft wooden “tock” call notes to locate them.

**House Finch:** The 7,725 reported from CBCs is just above the annual average of 7,378 of the past decade and evidence that this non-native species is holding its own.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Almost non-existent, and it will probably be many years before we see another irruption like the one in winter 2008–09. Two were found on the Hocking Hills CBC on 02 Jan; one visited

a *Geauga* feeder on 22 Dec (Lyn Miller); and one briefly visited a *Lake* feeder on 01 Jan (John Pogacnik).

**Common Redpoll:** Last winter, there was a small “shadow” irruption following the massive showing of winter 2007–08 (see *The Ohio Cardinal* 31[2]: 40-42). This winter, redpolls were almost absent. Only eight were reported from CBCs, and there was a total of three others reported: two in *Lake* on 03 and 08 Jan (John Pogacnik) and an unattributed report from *Wayne* in late Jan.

**Pine Siskin:** A lean year for this cyclical irruptive, with only 37 reported from CBCs statewide. Last winter, CBCs reported a record high 3,205. Siskins tend to occur in large numbers every other year.

**American Goldfinch:** The 13,800 reported from CBCs is the second-highest tally ever, and goldfinches show steady increases in winter, with four of the five highest counts coming from the past five winters.



*The year that follows a major winter irruption of winter finches sometimes sees a minor follow-up irruption event, but this did not materialize after last year's White-winged Crossbill invasion. Only four individuals were recorded, including this one that John Pogacnik photographed in his North Perry, Lake, yard on 01 Jan.*

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only report was of two from the *Preble* County CBC on 14 Dec. These thick-billed finches have become great rarities in Ohio (see *The Ohio Cardinal* 31[2]: 43 for a graph of their history in the state).

**House Sparrow:** This much-maligned invasive is seldom reported, and is yet another case where CBC data provides one of few data sets that includes numbers on this species. The 45,034 tallied on CBCs is the highest count in years, and with no apparent explanation; one must go back to the 1980s to find numbers this high. See *The Ohio Cardinal* 31(2): 43 for a graph and thoughts about the long-term trend of House Sparrow in Ohio.

#### **Literature Cited**

Peterjohn, B. P. 2001. *The Birds of Ohio*. The Wooster Book Company, Wooster, Ohio.

At least 277 contributors made their reports directly available to the staff of *The Ohio Cardinal*, or contributed observations via the Ohio Birds listserv or other public web-based sites. Thanks to all who make the effort to provide the results of their field work to the editors of this publication and the birding community as a whole.

Scott Albaugh	Adam Cirone	Bob Glotzhofer
Chuck Anderson	Jim Clapp	Jim Glover
Matt Anderson	Gary Cochran	Roy Goerler
Nancy Anderson	Dave Collopy	Laura Gooch
Verna Ansel	Noah Comet	Dave Graham
Sean Artman	Rick Counts	Paul Graham
Rick Asamoto	Patrick Coy	Karen Gray
Judy Ashford	Charles Crawford	Lee Grover
Emil Bacik	Janet Creamer	John Habig
Cynthia Balliett	Glen Crippen	Lois Harder
Bob Baran	Greg Cudworth	Vic Harder
Tom Bartlett	Michael Cullison	Andrea Haslage
Aaron Bartley	Ken Davis	Michael Hatfield
Tom Beachy	Jonathan Dean	Bill Heck
Bob Beason	Larry DeAtley	Lisa Heenan
Dick Beery	Chris Decker	Luke Heider
Daniel Behm	Lindsay Deering	Linda Helm
Kirt Beiling	Bea Delpapa	Bob Hinkle
Gregory Bennett	Gary Dietz	Barb Hohman
Jack Berninger	Cole DiFabrio	Craig Holt
Charles Bombaci	Laura Dornan	Dave Horn
Bill Bosstic	Tim Dornan	Nancy Howell
Nick Boutis	Paul Dubuc	Paul Hurtado
Jill Bowers	Janet Duerr	Kathi Hutton
Margaret Bowman	Dave Dvorak	Sally Isacco
Mike Bracken	Ann Dysinger	Bill Jackson
Kathleen Bradley	Mike Edgington	Shari Jackson
Lisa Brohl	Brian Ellyson	Steve Jones
Diane Brooks	Greg Emmert	Susan Jones
Sandy Brown	Dave English	Laura Jordan
Lori Brumbaugh	Bob Evans	Rose Kandik
Jen Brumfield	Joe Faulkner	Kenn Kaufman
Nancy Brundage	Nicholas Fensler	Kim Kaufman
Jere Brunken	Bill Fissell	Bill Kaye
Mike Busam	Anders Fjeldstad	Laura Keene
Suzanne Butcher	Jean Foor	Ned Keller
Steve Cagan	Lisa Fosco	Matt Kemp
Craig Caldwell	Joan Frederick	Tom Kemp
Chris Caprette	Dave Freriks	David Kersten
Matt Carity	Jim Fry	John King
Alex Champagne	Larry Gara	Paul Kiplinger
Phil Chaon	Lou Gardella	Joe Knapp
Allen Chartier	Sandra Gaunt	Kurt Knebusch
Heather Chute	Bruce Glick	Debbie Knox



Gene Knox	Nate Nye	Rick Stelzer
Dan Kramer	Penny O'Connor	Jay Stenger
JoAnn Kubicki	Ken Ostermiller	Michael Stetz
John Kuenzli	Rick Oxley	Steve Stockford
Al La Sala	Barb Partington	Matthew Studebaker
Bob Lane	Pat Patemostro	Amy Suggars
Denise Lane	Steve Pendleton	Yvonne Surfronko
Jason Larson	John Petruzzi	Becky Szabo
Lisa Lazar	Chris Pierce	Bill Tacon
Jay Lehman	Ed Pierce	Karin Tanquist
Gabe Leidy	Milly Ward Piros	Nick Taylor
Jennifer Lenhart	John Pogacnik	Rob Thorn
Doreene Linzell	Marcia Polevoi	Sandy Tkach
Lou Loibl	Leonard Powlick	Tim Tolford
Ethan Longhenry	Sue Pryor	Elliot Tramer
Keith Lott	Lisa Rainsong	Renee Tressler
Paula Lozano	Heather Raymond	Roger Troutman
Vic Macha	Matt Ream	Duane Troyer
Ronnie Mack	Jim Reyda	John Troyer
Phil Marcischak	Russ Reynolds	Lee Underschultz
Carol Martinsen	Craig Rieker	Pam Unger
Tim Mason	Bill Rinehart	Matt Valencic
Bernard Master	Michael Rohe	Manon Van Schoyck
Chris McAnlis	Marilyn Rohr	Mark Vass
Pat McCarthy	Ed Roush	Doug Vogus
Dennis McConnell	Robert Royse	Beverly Walker
Jim McCormac	Brenda Rushka	Sam Walker
Beth McGuire	Spencer Ryan	Ben Warner
Pattie McKelvey	Dan Sanders	Mary Warren
Kathy McKibben	Mike Sandy	Dan Weber
Liz McQuaid	Regina Schieltz	Bill Whan
Paul McSweeney	Al Schlecht	Pete Whan
Kate Mick	Inga Schmidt	Jim White
Aaron Milenski	Rita Schneider	Jeannie Williams
Bruce Miller	Marc Schroeder	Sean Williams
Greg Miller	Lisa Sells	John Wilson
Lyn Miller	Judy Semroc	Clyde Witt
Gary Moon	Andy Sewell	Jay Wootten
Craig Moore	Mark Shieldcastle	Joanne Wrasse
Karen Morgan	Mary Alice Sims	Betty Wright
Tracy Morman	Shaune Skinner	Scott Wright
Andrew Morrison	Michele Skolmutch	James Yoder
Ben Morrison	Dave Slager	Mike Yough
Donald Morse	Thomas Slemmer	
Robert Morton	Elaine Snively	
Scott Moscovits	Su Snyder	
Howard Mueller	Greg Spahr	
Hideta Nagai	Brad Sparks	
Bev Neubauer	Terry Sponseller	
Ed Neubauer	Gene Stauffer	
Terri Norris	Ryan Steiner	

# Lichen Composition in Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nests

By *Jim McCormac and Ray E. Showman*

*Jim McCormac*  
2314 Sandman Drive  
Columbus, OH 43235  
[ambrosia@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ambrosia@columbus.rr.com)

*Ray E. Showman*  
59335 Randerson Road  
McArthur, OH 45651

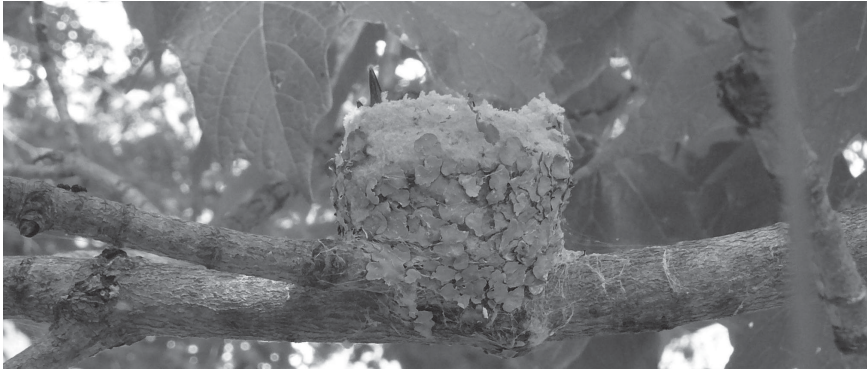
## Abstract

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila caerulea*) and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) heavily utilize macrolichens in their nests. We are unaware of any study that documents the species and composition of lichens that are used by these two bird species. This paper reports the results of a detailed study of 26 gnatcatcher and hummingbird nests, mostly from Ohio. Lichens found on these nests were common foliose (leaf-like) species that grow on twigs and branches. Further, they all had lobe tips that were somewhat loosely attached to the bark. Tightly appressed lichen species were not found on any of the nests.

## Introduction

Lichens are the product of an intricate symbiosis: composite organisms that contain both an alga (sometimes a cyanobacterium) and a fungus. The fungal component is known as a *mycobiont*, which creates the color and structure of the lichen. The algal partner is the *photobiont*, which photosynthesizes and produces food for the lichen. Lichens are not commonly used as construction material in North American bird nests (Box 1). However, two well-known and notable exceptions are the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Because these species are common and widespread in eastern North America, including Ohio (McCormac and Kennedy 2004), their nests are often seen and described. Literature references to these two species' nests abound. Perhaps every published nest description mentions the presence of lichens as exterior shingling on gnatcatcher and hummingbird nests.

We can find no study that documents lichen species and their relative abundance in nest composition. At best, the presence of lichens in nests is described in very general terms, such as this reference for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "...decorated with large quantities of crustose lichens (*Parmelia* spp., *Physcia* spp.)" (Ellison 1992). It should be noted that crustose lichens are in general crustlike and tightly appressed to their growth substrate. Sometimes crustose lichens even grow within the substrate. It is highly unlikely that crustose lichens are harvested by hummingbirds or gnatcatchers, and Ellison's reference to their use is undoubtedly in



**Figure 1.** Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest in Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*), Knox County, Ohio, July 2010. Decoration of *Flavoparmelia caperata* provides camouflage. Photo by Jim McCormac

error and underscores the issues with lichen identification.

A few bird species are known to use plant material with insecticidal properties in nest construction. Among these are Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), which often use black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) (Dykstra *et al.* 2009). A recent study also suggests that Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) might select moss species that have insecticidal properties (Andreas 2009). Some lichen species are known to produce secondary chemical metabolites that can inhibit invasion by potentially predacious small animals (Lawrey *et al.* 1999). However, chemical properties in lichens that might inhibit nest parasites are unknown, and little if any research has been done in this area.

Some evidence suggests that lichens routinely used in Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests do not serve as parasite repellants. Gnatcatchers are well known for frequently deconstructing their nests and incorporat-

ing used material in second nesting attempts (Root 1969). There are at least three documented cases in which gnatcatchers avoided the re-use of materials in nests that were infested with mites (*Ornithonyssus sylviarum*), even though their second nesting was quite near the infected nests (Root 1969), suggesting that lichens employed in gnatcatcher nest construction are ineffective at repelling common nest parasites.

Bird species that routinely utilize lichens in nest construction probably do so primarily for purposes of camouflage. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers typically site their nests on small branches of trees, often at the axil of two branches (Baicich and Harrison 2005). Arboreal habitats selected by these species are often liberally encrusted with lichens. The copious shingling of the nests with lichens clearly helps them to blend with their surroundings (Figure 1), and the nests often resemble lichen-covered knots (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest in Fraser Magnolia (*Magnolia fraseri*), Fayette County, West Virginia, 26 April 2010. A shingling of *Parmelia sulcata* blends the nest with its surroundings. Photo by Jim McCormac.

## Materials and Methods

Fourteen Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests were examined. Nests were from the Ohio State Museum of Biodiversity, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Lake County Metroparks, Dawes Arboretum, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, and various individuals as listed in the acknowledgments. Of these, 11 were from various locations in Ohio, two were from Pennsylvania, and one came from Indiana. All of these locations are in the heart of the eastern deciduous forest biome and do not differ appreciably in regards to vegetative habitat characteristics. All of the nests were heavily ornamented with lichens. Twelve Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests were examined. All came from various sites within Ohio. These nests were all heavily shingled with lichen lobe tips.

Nests were examined with the aid of a dissecting microscope, and the lichens incorporated in the nests were identified to species when possible. Most of the lichens had faded to a uniform brownish color—the nest

specimens varied from a few years to several decades in age—rendering color largely useless as an identification character. However, identification of most lichens was possible based on lobe size and shape, surface characteristics, the presence of cilia, and undersurface color (Showman and Flenniken 2004).

## Results and Discussion

Table 1 lists the lichen species found and the estimated composition of each nest examined. Lichens identified on the nests included the following:

- Hammered Shield Lichen (*Parmelia sulcata*): 23 nests (88%)
- Common Greenshield Lichen (*Flavoparmelia caperata*): 15 nests (58%)
- Speckled Shield Lichens (probably *Punctelia subrudecta*; may also include *P. rudecta*): 13 nests (50%)
- Ruffle Lichen (*Parmotrema* spp.): 4 nests (2%)
- Powdery Axil-bristle Lichen (*Myelochroa aurulenta*): 1 nest (<1%)

Both gnatcatchers and hummingbirds used many of the same lichen species in their nests, but there was

**Box 1.** North American bird species, other than gnatcatchers and hummingbirds, that regularly use lichens in nest construction

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Lichens often figure prominently in the exterior shingling of nests of this species (McCarty 1996). We would have liked to have had a large sample size of pewee nests to analyze, but they apparently are not well represented in collections, due to the difficulty of accessing nest sites. Two nests were made available to us, both from Lake County, Ohio, collection dates unknown. In both cases, Hammered Shield Lichen, *Parmelia sulcata*, was the only species used.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Beard lichens, genus *Usnea*\* (Altman and Sallabanks. 2000)

**Vireo species:** Most, if not all, species found in eastern North America regularly use lichens in nest building, at least sparingly. But they do not generally heavily shingle the exterior (Baicich and Harrison 2005).

**Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Beard lichens, genus *Usnea* (Baicich and Harrison 2005).

**Cedar Waxwing:** May sometimes use *Usnea* lichens (Baicich and Harrison 2005). However, an exhaustive study of waxwings that examined dozens of nests in Ottawa County, Ohio, fails to mention lichens as nest material (Putnam 1949). Moss is often mentioned as a component of Cedar Waxwing nests, and bryophytes (mosses) are probably fairly often confused with lichens, especially prominently tufted species such as *Usnea*, by generalists.

**Northern Parula:** Reported using *Usnea* lichens (Baicich and Harrison

2005). However, this largely southern species heavily utilizes Spanish moss, *Tillandsia usneoides* (Moldenhauer *et al.* 1996). The specific epithet *usneoides* means “resembles *Usnea*,” and references to beard lichens in Northern Parula nest construction, especially in the in southern parts of its range, may actually refer to the moss.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Unspecified lichens (Hunt and Flaspohler 1998).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** *Usnea* lichens (Griscom and Sprunt 1957).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** *Usnea* lichens (Baicich and Harrison 2005).

**American Redstart:** unspecified lichens (Griscom and Sprunt 1957).

**Red Crossbill:** *Usnea* lichens and “black tree lichen” (genus *Bryoria*) (Adkisson 1996).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Unspecified lichens (Benkman 1992).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Unspecified lichens (Gillihan and Byers 2001).

\*Beard lichens in the genus *Usnea* reach peak abundance in boreal regions in North America, hence their prevalence in the nests of northern nesting bird species that typically use lichens in nest construction. In Ohio, there are nine *Usnea* species, but most have a limited distribution and none are abundant. Thus, they do not figure prominently in nest construction of Ohio species or species breeding south of the boreal forest in general.

a notable difference in the size of lichen pieces harvested by the two species. Lichen fragments incorporated into Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests averaged 3 to 4 mm in diameter; gnatcatcher fragments averaged 4 to 6 mm in diameter. In all cases, the lichen pieces are exfoliating lobe tips of the lichens—the strap-like outer portions that curl away from the bark and are the easiest portions of the lichen for the bird to grasp and remove (see Figure 3).

All of the hummingbird nest lichens share several characteristics. *Parmelia sulcata* was the most heavily utilized lichen, followed by *Flavoparmelia caperata* and *Punctelia* spp. They are all common foliose lichens, present in most Ohio counties (Showman and Flenniken 2004; Figure 4). Each lichen species grows on twigs

and branches, as well as the trunks of trees, and none are tightly appressed to bark (at least the lobe tips are not). All but one of the lichen species documented in this study prefer sunny tree bark as a substrate (the exception, *Myelochroa aurulenta*, prefers shaded tree bark, but only a small quantity was incorporated into one of our study nests). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds presumably choose a nearby lichen to camouflage their nests, making horizontal branches with sufficient sunlight that are festooned with lichens good places to seek the nests.

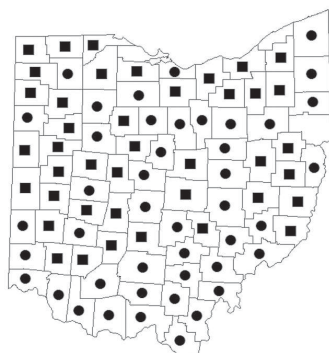
As with Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests, *Parmelia sulcata* was a favored material for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. *Flavoparmelia caperata* and *Parmotrema* spp. were also



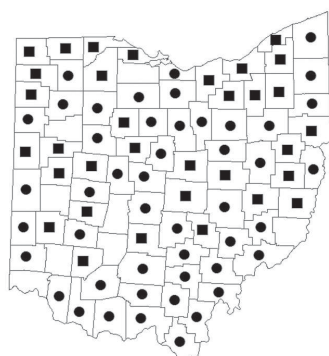
**Figure 3.** Hammered Shield Lichen (*Parmelia sulcata*), Vinton County, Ohio, February 2010. The recurved lobe tips that are readily harvestable by hummingbirds and gnatcatchers are apparent. Photo by Ray Showman.

frequently used on some nests. The latter two species have broader lobes than *Parmelia sulcata*, and the choice of these species may reflect the gnatcatcher's preference for slightly larger lichen pieces. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers tend to heavily armor the exterior of their nests with lichens, whereas hummingbirds tend to plate their nests more sparingly. Gnatcatcher nests might be considered to be *shingled* with lichens (Figure 5), whereas hummingbird nest exteriors could be considered as being *decorated* with lichens (Figure 6). It is unknown whether this preference reflects a need for appropriate camouflage of the nest, the strength of the birds' bills (presumably the stouter bill of gnatcatchers could manipulate larger, tougher pieces of lichen than hummingbirds), or other pressures.

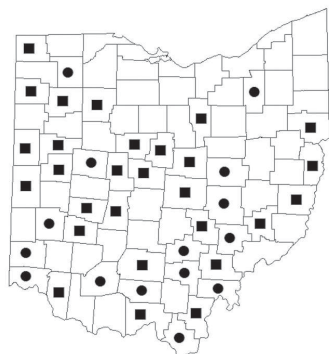
Certain lichens are clearly favored over other readily available species. Selection is almost certainly based on morphological traits of the lichen that enable the birds to harvest them. The lichens used in nest construction are species that can be removed by the tiny bill of a hummingbird or gnatcatcher. Other common twig and branch lichens either have tiny lobes (*Physcia millegrana*) or are tightly appressed and not easily removed (*P. aiopolia* and *P. stellaris*; Figure 7). The only published reference we located that mentions specific lichen species utilized in songbird nest construction was Ellison's (1992) monograph of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. He cites *Physcia* spp. (Rosette Lichens) as being used, but we found no evidence that any of the nine *Physcia* species



*Flavoparmelia caperata* (L.) Hale



*Parmelia sulcata* Taylor



*Punctelia subrudecta* (Nyl.) Krog

**Figure 4.** Ohio distributions of the three lichen species most commonly found in this study. Maps courtesy of the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association: <http://www.ohiomosslichen.org>

Nest location, date and additional information	Estimated percent of lichen species on each nest.			
	<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	<i>Punctelia</i> sp.*	<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>	<i>Parmotrema</i> sp.
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird:</b>				
1. Medina Co., OH. 29 September 2009. Silver maple.	90	5		
2. Waynesburg, PA. 29 May 1908. American beech.		95	5	
3. Green Co., PA. 04 June 1907.	45	10	45	
4. Licking Co., OH. Dawes Arboretum.	75	20	5	
5. Coshocton Co., OH 19 August 1994	60	10	30	
6. Mahoning Co., OH. 2007	50		50	
7. Delaware Co., OH.	40	10	40	10
8. Delaware Co., OH.	50		50	
9. Delaware Co., OH	100			
10. Delaware Co., OH	100			
11. Indiana, July 1935.		80	20	
12. Summit Co., OH. November 1985. Maple.	100			
13. Portage Co., OH. 02 July 1944.	100			
14. Athens Co., OH, area.	60		40	

Table 1.

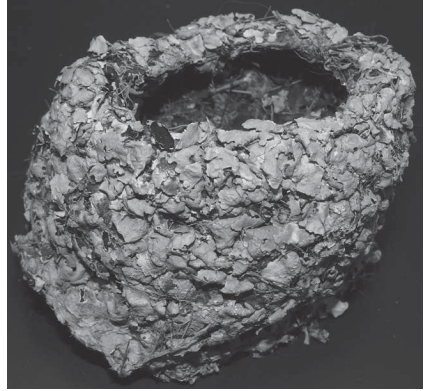


Nest location, date and additional information	Estimated percent of lichen species on each nest.			
	<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	<i>Punctelia</i> sp.*	<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>	<i>Parmotrema</i> sp.
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:</b>				
A. Hancock Co., OH.	100			
B. Licking Co., OH. Dawes Arboretum	45	5	45	5
C. Licking Co., OH. Granville.	30		30	40
D. Hancock Co., OH. 20 October 1909.	95	5		
E. Summit Co., OH. 1994.	100			
F. Scioto Co., OH. 2006.		30	60	10
G. Delaware Co., OH.	5	5	90	
H. Delaware Co., OH	80		20	
I. Summit Co., 2003 or 2004	100			
J. Summit Co., OH area	100			
K. Athens Co., OH, area.	50	50		
L. Athens Co., OH, area.	40	10	50	

Table 1, continued.

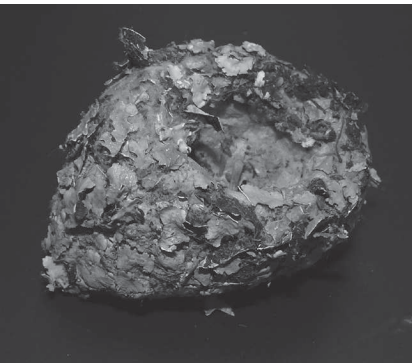
found in Ohio were used. The most common of these is *Physcia millegrana*, Mealy Rosette Lichen, which is abundant near typical gnatcatcher and hummingbird nest sites but has quite tiny lobes and is probably unacceptable as nest material.

Lichens are a critical component of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests. All 26 nests that we obtained for this study had lichens as a co-dominant component, forming an integral part of nest camouflage. Of the 223 macrolichen species known from Ohio (Showman and Flenniken 2004), only a few appear to be acceptable for nest construction. Fortunately, these are common and widespread species. Excessive air pollution can have profound effects on lichen communities. Many species are especially sensitive to high levels of sulfur dioxide (Showman and Flenniken 2004). Prior to passage of the Clean Air Act in 1972, heavily industrialized regions, such as parts of the Ohio River Valley, were virtually lacking



**Figure 5.** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest showing heavy lichen shingling. Composition: *Flavoparmelia caperata* 60%; *Punctelia* spp. 30%; *Parmotrema* spp. 10%. Nest collected in Scioto County, Ohio in 2006.

in lichens (Showman 1973). Since 1972, there has been a dramatic resurgence of lichens in formerly polluted areas (Showman 1997). The influence of lichen availability on nesting success has not been studied. Two species commonly used in gnatcatcher and hummingbird nests, *Parmelia sulcata* and *Punctelia subrudecta*, are somewhat tolerant of air pollution. Two others, *Flavoparmelia caperata* and *Punctelia rudecta*, are quite sensitive to airborne toxins. Increases in air pollution, especially sulfur dioxide, may have deleterious consequences on the nesting success of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



**Figure 6.** Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest showing lichen decoration. Composition: *Flavoparmelia caperata* 50%; *Parmelia sulcata* 50%. Nest collected in Delaware County, Ohio, date unknown.

## Acknowledgments

The authors thank the following individuals for providing nests for this study or otherwise offering their expertise: John Condit (Ohio State University), Patrick Coy, Julie Davis, Ron Gamble, Mary Huey (Lake

County Metroparks), Andy Jones (Cleveland Museum of Natural History), Tim Mason (Dawes Arboretum), Robert Scott Placier, Heather Nagy, R. Seiler, Lori Totman (Dawes Arboretum), and Bonnie Twaddle (Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center). Robert Klips provided the distribution maps from the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association.

### Literature Cited

- Adkisson, C. S. 1996. Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/256>
- Altman, B. and R. Sallabanks. 2000. Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/502>
- Andreas, B. K. 2009. Use of bryophytes by Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) in nest construction. *Evansia* 27 (1): 23-29.
- Baicich, P. J. and C. J. O. Harrison. 2005. *Nests, eggs, and nestlings of North American birds* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Benkman, C. W. 1992. White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/027>
- Dykstra, C. R., J. L. Hays, and M. M. Simon. 2009. Selection of fresh vegetation for nest lining by Red-shouldered Hawks. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 121: 207-210.
- Ellison, W. G. 1992. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/023>
- Gillihan, S. W. and B. Byers. 2001. Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/599>
- Griscom, L. and A. Sprunt (Eds.). 1957. *The warblers of North America*. The Devin-Adair Company, New York.
- Hunt, P. D. and D. J. Flaspohler. 1998. Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). *In: The Birds of North America Online* (A.

- Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/376>
- Lawrey, J. D., A. P. Torzilli, and V. Chandhoke. 1999. Destruction of chemical defenses by a fungal pathogen. *American Journal of Botany* 186: 184-189.
- McCarty, J. P. 1996. Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*). In: The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/245>
- McCormac, J. S. and G. Kennedy. 2004. *Birds of Ohio*. Lone Pine Publishing International Inc., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- Moldenhauer, R. R. and D. J. Regelski. 1996. Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). In: The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/215>
- Putnam, L. S. 1949. The life history of the Cedar Waxwing. *Wilson Bulletin* 61: 141-182.
- Root, R. B. 1969. The behavior and reproductive success of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. *Condor* 71:16-31.
- Showman, R. E. and D. G. Flenniken. 2004. *The macrolichens of Ohio*. Ohio Biological Survey, Columbus, Ohio.
- Showman, R. E. 1973. The foliose and fruticose lichen flora of the Ohio River Valley between Gallipolis, Ohio and Parkersburg, West Virginia. *Ohio Journal of Science* 73: 357-363.
- Showman, R. E. 1997. Continuing lichen colonization in the upper Ohio River Valley. *The Bryologist* 100: 478-481.

## Christmas Bird Counts 2009–2010

By *Ned Keller*

8098 Turcotte Lane  
North Bend, OH 45052  
keller@one.net

We managed to conduct only 65 Christmas Counts this year—fewer than were held the last few years, because extreme weather forced the cancellation of several counts. We still managed to find 157 species, about average for recent years. Somewhat unusually, no additional count week species were reported. In the race for the most species, Toledo led the pack once again, with 95 species. The only other count in the 90s was Wooster, with exactly 90; Millersburg had 87, Western Hamilton County had 86, and Ragersville had 85.

Fully 21 species were found in only one count circle: a Ross's Goose in Tiffin; a Blue-winged Teal in Elyria–Lorain (plus another count-week bird in Hamilton–Fairfield); two Northern Bobwhites in Western Hamilton County; a highly unusual record of American White Pelican in Hamilton–Fairfield; a Golden Eagle in Grand Rapids–Waterville; a Spotted Sandpiper in Brown Family Environmental Center; a Purple Sandpiper and a Dunlin in Lake Erie Islands; a Thayer's Gull, two Iceland Gulls, and three Glaucous Gulls at Grand Rapids–Waterville (another count week Glaucous was

at Toledo); a Loggerhead Shrike at Adams County; a White-eyed Vireo at Clark County; a Cape May Warbler at Ragersville; a Vesper Sparrow at Toledo; a Lark Sparrow and a Harris's Sparrow at Western Hamilton County; a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; two Brewer's Blackbirds at Adams County; two White-winged Crossbills at Hocking Hills; and two Evening Grosbeaks at Preble County. At the other end of the spectrum, 15 species were found in all 65 circles: Mallard, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

As always, the results printed here are as reported—no attempt has been made to check them for accuracy.



*White-breasted Nuthatch, photographed by Dave Lewis at Rocky River Reservation, Cuyahoga, on 21 Feb.*

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

	Adams County 12/19/2009 (82)	Ashland 12/19/2009 (30)	Ashtabula 1/2/2010 (25)	Beaver Creek 12/20/2009 (36)	Beaver Valley 12/19/2009 (84)	Black Swamp 12/15/2009 (16)	Brown Family Env. Center 12/20/2009 (59)	Buckeye Lake 12/19/2009 (56)	Bucyrus 3/20/2010 (14)	Burton 1/1/2010 (27)	Cadiz 1/2/2010 (72)	Caesar Cr. / Spring Valley 12/17/2009 (69)	Chandlersville 1/1/2010 (74)
Greater White-fronted Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Snow Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	8	---
Ross's Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cackling Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Canada Goose	936	617	676	1106	42	244	2861	739	29	1314	313	664	244
Mute Swan	---	3	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Trumpeter Swan	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	14
Tundra Swan	---	ow	12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
swan sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wood Duck	9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Gadwall	---	---	---	3	8	---	3	---	---	---	5	12	2
American Wigeon	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---
American Black Duck	61	25	74	31	---	---	1	3	---	---	---	16	3
Mallard	65	354	69	331	2	402	311	201	4	404	91	194	37
Blue-winged Teal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Shoveler	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	11	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Pintail	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	36
Green-winged Teal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	15	---
Canvasback	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	2	---
Redhead	---	---	25	---	---	---	2	---	---	3	---	46	4
Ring-necked Duck	9	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	212	85
Greater Scaup	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lesser Scaup	18	---	12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	21
scaup sp.	---	---	40	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Surf Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White-winged Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Black Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Long-tailed Duck	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bufflehead	11	1	13	---	---	---	8	---	---	---	---	7	---
Common Goldeneye	---	---	22	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hooded Merganser	13	3	2	5	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	7	---
Common Merganser	---	---	695	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Red-breasted Merganser	---	---	399	---	---	ow	---	4	---	---	---	---	---
merganser sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ruddy Duck	1	---	1	2	---	---	6	---	---	---	---	184	---
duck sp.	---	---	85	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ring-necked Pheasant	---	---	---	1	---	1	1	---	7	---	---	---	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wild Turkey	164	38	43	75	34	ow	53	---	22	59	70	24	2
Northern Bobwhite	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Loon	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9
Pied-billed Grebe	1	---	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	6
Horned Grebe	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2
American White Pelican	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Double-crested Cormorant	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Great Blue Heron	8	14	---	4	1	---	11	12	2	3	1	7	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Black Vulture	60	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	18
Turkey Vulture	61	---	---	---	4	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	10
Bald Eagle	2	5	4	5	---	2	9	---	5	1	---	2	---
Northern Harrier	7	1	---	3	4	1	3	---	2	---	3	2	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	---	1	---	---	---	2	---	1	---	1	---	4
Cooper's Hawk	5	4	7	13	1	3	6	4	4	3	3	3	2
Northern Goshawk	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Accipiter sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	4	3	10	9	---	4	1	2	19	---	25	3
Red-tailed Hawk	43	25	14	14	26	8	30	17	13	12	34	42	25
Rough-legged Hawk	---	1	---	---	---	---	3	---	1	2	2	---	11
Buteo sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Golden Eagle	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Kestrel	30	12	1	14	25	13	10	8	5	3	7	5	7
Merlin	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Peregrine Falcon	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
hawk sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Coot	---	---	2	12	---	---	25	1	---	---	6	158	---
Sandhill Crane	---	---	---	---	---	10	---	---	---	---	---	758	---
Killdeer	25	3	---	---	32	---	6	---	---	---	---	15	---
Spotted Sandpiper	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Least Sandpiper	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

Cincinnati 12/27/2009 (65)	Clark County 12/18/2009 (44)	Cleveland 12/19/2009 (23)	Columbus 12/20/2009 (55)	Cuyahoga Falls 12/20/2009 (29)	Dayton 12/27/2009 (60)	Delaware Reservoir 12/20/2009 (52)	East Fork Lake S.P. 1/2/2010 (67)	Elyria-Lorain 12/19/2009 (20)	Fairlands 12/19/2009 (9)	Fremont 12/20/2009 (8)	Gall Woods 12/19/2009 (1)	Grand Lake-St. Marys 12/19/2009 (41)	Grand Rapids-Waterville 12/20/10 (2)	Greenville 12/20/2009 (43)	Gypsum 1/1/2010 (6)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/19/2009 (62)			
3	1	---	---	2	---	---	2	7	4	1	---	---	---	2	---	CW			
4	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
950	2000	2050	3270	5775	2614	2731	1678	1775	2009	4953	27	2726	3622	763	2131	1978			
8	4	---	7	12	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	CW	---	10	CW			
---	---	---	---	17	---	---	---	2	105	---	---	---	CW	---	36	---			
---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	CW			
---	---	---	4	1	---	5	---	1	---	---	---	---	1	2	---	3			
CW	18	9	9	4	---	---	---	2	4	1	---	---	2	---	141	2			
---	2	---	5	1	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	---	26	CW			
4	120	38	450	44	25	9	47	5	35	182	---	---	29	---	70	9			
303	1200	660	1941	1722	541	776	603	360	1412	1520	14	432	887	92	1401	933			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	CW			
2	---	1	1	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	45	CW		
---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	CW		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	---	CW	---	---	CW			
5	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	1	---	---	---	---	CW	---	---	CW			
12	---	4	1	6	---	---	9	---	34	---	---	---	---	---	---	CW			
2	---	2	93	67	---	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	17			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	25	---	---	---	---	---	CW	---	4	---			
6	1	1	---	5	1	---	12	12	6	---	---	---	---	---	12	CW			
---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---			
---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
26	---	10	1	3	7	---	7	1	4	---	---	---	2	---	50	CW			
CW	1	70	1	---	7	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	1	---	2232	CW			
16	70	2	127	29	60	3	6	12	1	---	---	1	CW	---	1	9			
---	---	10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2031	---			
---	---	6500	1	---	---	---	---	5715	32	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
83	5	---	1	14	---	---	---	16	15	---	---	---	2	1	---	8	CW		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
---	---	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	27	---	---	4500	---			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---	---	---		
48	---	20	33	25	---	54	---	8	---	---	14	---	4	10	---	2			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---		
16	7	1	13	3	1	---	3	2	1	---	---	---	2	---	---	8			
2	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	2	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
46	21	6	51	25	46	27	1	---	17	32	1	13	5	2	92	20			
---	---	---	12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	64	---	---		
24	---	---	---	---	---	---	61	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
41	---	---	---	---	---	---	23	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
3	1	3	4	5	---	1	4	3	6	45	---	3	14	---	80	1			
1	---	---	1	2	3	3	4	1	2	3	---	---	3	1	3	1	---		
13	1	1	3	6	4	1	1	2	---	---	---	1	6	---	1	2	---		
17	2	8	15	29	11	14	7	6	3	14	2	1	17	8	4	7	---		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
2	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---		
19	---	2	2	27	2	---	23	2	CW	---	---	---	13	1	---	2	---		
96	10	16	37	124	34	55	24	11	15	66	9	16	72	21	44	19	---		
---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
15	---	---	2	3	8	20	30	10	2	18	7	19	5	9	4	9	---		
---	---	2	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	1	---	---	---	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	
450	19	13	1	48	9	---	21	5	1	---	---	---	7	1	3	CW	---		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	27	---	---	---	52	---	11	---	---	CW	---	---	
1	5	---	---	8	2	12	1	---	---	2	---	4	---	---	---	9	---	---	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

	Hocking Hills 1/2/2010 (85)	Hoover Reservoir 12/19/2009 (53)	Indian Lake 12/20/2009 (42)	Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area 12/27/2009 (50)	Kingston 1/1/2010 (58)	Lake Erie Islands 12/20/2009 (5)	Lakewood 12/27/2009 (21)	Lancaster 12/26/2009 (57)	Mansfield 12/19/2009 (13)	Mentor 12/20/2009 (24)	Millersburg 1/2/2010 (83)	Mohican State Forest 1/2/2010 (35)	Mount Gilead 12/19/2009 (51)
Greater White-fronted Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Snow Goose	20	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---
Ross's Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cackling Goose	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---
Canada Goose	253	2147	1390	2547	1119	421	1264	449	1312	1035	4325	1449	221
Mute Swan	8	---	1	---	---	---	---	4	1	2	---	---	---
Trumpeter Swan	---	---	---	9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tundra Swan	---	---	---	53	---	302	1	---	---	---	15	---	---
swan sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wood Duck	---	---	---	2	---	---	3	---	1	---	---	---	---
Gadwall	28	3	---	---	---	93	---	---	3	---	1	---	---
American Wigeon	1	2	---	6	---	2	---	---	---	---	ow	---	---
American Black Duck	4	90	4	58	2	316	23	1	6	32	79	4	---
Mallard	252	728	411	1099	50	1895	801	121	201	397	638	212	1
Blue-winged Teal	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Shoveler	---	3	---	---	---	1	4	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Pintail	---	5	---	8	---	5	2	---	---	---	1	---	---
Green-winged Teal	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---
Canvasback	---	ow	---	---	---	77	---	---	2	10	---	---	---
Redhead	---	ow	---	---	---	12	1	---	18	18	---	---	---
Ring-necked Duck	---	ow	---	---	---	1	1	12	19	3	ow	---	---
Greater Scaup	---	---	---	---	---	180	---	---	---	50	---	---	---
Lesser Scaup	---	5	---	---	---	839	---	---	ow	72	---	---	---
scaup sp.	---	---	---	---	---	1571	90	---	---	---	---	---	---
Surf Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White-winged Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Black Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	5	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Long-tailed Duck	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bufflehead	---	3	---	---	---	3217	62	---	ow	10	---	1	---
Common Goldeneye	---	6	---	---	---	3255	352	---	ow	25	---	---	---
Hooded Merganser	11	153	---	---	---	9	9	---	9	17	---	---	---
Common Merganser	---	---	2	---	---	859	---	---	---	2	---	---	---
Red-breasted Merganser	---	---	---	---	---	7092	35677	---	---	465	---	---	---
merganser sp.	---	---	---	---	---	982	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ruddy Duck	3	303	---	---	---	1	2	11	2	31	---	---	---
duck sp.	---	---	40	---	---	726	---	3	57	---	---	---	---
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	---	---	---	1	6	---	1	3	---	3	---	---
Ruffed Grouse	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wild Turkey	102	9	---	---	4	150	7	---	379	16	219	72	35
Northern Bobwhite	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Loon	---	4	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	1	---	---	---
Pied-billed Grebe	---	2	---	---	2	---	---	---	ow	---	---	---	---
Horned Grebe	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	ow	---	---
American White Pelican	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Double-crested Cormorant	---	ow	---	---	---	5	3	---	---	1	1	---	---
Great Blue Heron	2	13	1	2	---	2	5	5	8	4	20	10	---
Black-crowned Night-Heron	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Black Vulture	37	---	---	---	---	---	---	55	---	---	97	---	---
Turkey Vulture	16	---	---	---	16	---	---	24	---	---	313	---	---
Bald Eagle	5	5	1	15	1	7	2	---	ow	2	ow	10	---
Northern Harrier	---	1	4	22	25	---	---	2	---	---	11	1	---
Sharp-shinned Hawk	---	1	---	---	1	3	1	4	2	---	6	---	---
Cooper's Hawk	4	15	5	5	3	3	11	3	16	8	30	6	3
Northern Goshawk	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Accipiter sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1	---	1	1	---	3	2	6	8	3	7	---
Red-tailed Hawk	20	25	33	30	47	4	37	45	41	26	166	74	3
Rough-legged Hawk	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	2	---	21	13	---
Buteo sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Golden Eagle	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Kestrel	2	7	39	20	16	---	2	11	7	2	32	10	3
Merlin	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Peregrine Falcon	---	---	---	---	1	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---
hawk sp.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
American Coot	19	---	2	---	---	1	---	4	88	3	2	---	---
Sandhill Crane	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Killdeer	---	2	---	---	---	7	---	---	ow	---	10	5	---
Spotted Sandpiper	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Least Sandpiper	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

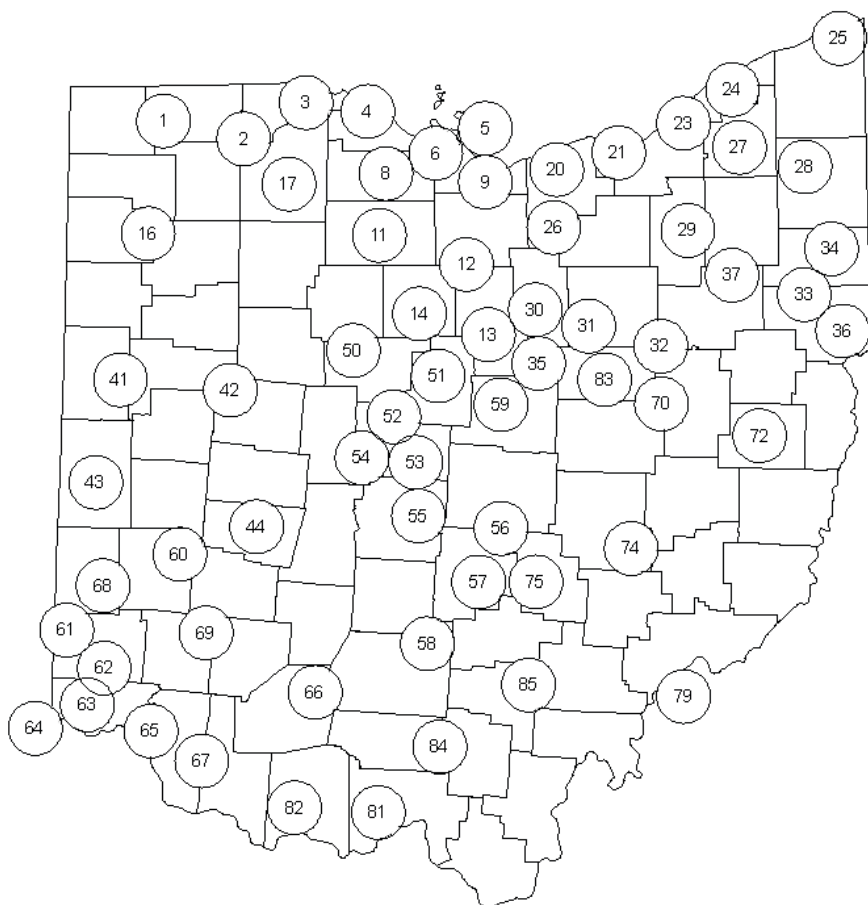


The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

New Lexington 1/3/2010 (75)	Ohio River IN-OH-KY 12/19/2009 (64)	O'Staughnessy Reservoir 1/2/2010 (54)	Ottawa N.W.R. 1/3/2010 (4)	Oxford 12/19/2009 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/20/2009 (66)	Parkersburg WV-OH 1/2/2010 (79)	Plymouth 1/2/2010 (12)	Pontsmouth 12/26/2009 (81)	Peeble County 12/14/2009 (68)	Quail Hollow-Harville 12/19/2009 (37)	Ragersville 12/29/2009 (70)	Rudolph 12/19/2009 (17)	Salem 1/3/2010 (33)	Tiffin 12/19/2009 (11)	Toledo 12/20/2009 (3)	Trumbull County 12/20/2009 (28)
...	2	7	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
50	1567	1969	4788	827	284	2449	490	63	196	4660	1778	1	778	1428	3057	5620
2	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	8	636	...	2	...	...	...	...	11	5	...	6	4	20	31
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...
...	68	...	2	...	13	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	123	29	20	25	14	4	2	15	...	280	5	6	...	...	341	2
8	2059	307	144	1181	69	400	126	279	90	1040	239	536	41	115	1786	475
...	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	...	1	...
...	1	2	...	...	CW	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	31	...
...	2	18	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
...	...	80	1	1	2	15	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	1151	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2000	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	20	5	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	51	16
...	...	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256	50
...	30	1	1	...	31	5	...	9	4	70	...	...	2	...	28	65
...	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4060	...
...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	CW	...	...	37	2	...	...	5	33	...	...	...	...	27	10
...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	305	...	...	1	1	CW
32	53	...	...	3	8	41	...	63	...	7	187	...	...	2	...	115
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	14	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	7	...
...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	54	26	17	14	27	3	CW	7	4	5	6	2	1	1	132	2
...	...	...	...	39	56	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	...	...	29	...
...	11	1	...	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	6	27	7	3	CW	8	...	...	3	2	3	1	7	68	15
1	1	8	4	...	36	2	1	3	...	...	23	10	2	3	4	2
1	...	1	3	1	...	3	2	1	1	3	10	2	3	3	4	2
3	7	12	8	7	6	6	1	5	1	8	36	12	6	8	31	4
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
11	2	4	...	...	7	5	...	2	...	5	2	1	2	...	...	12
11	34	87	51	17	47	15	11	37	16	23	243	47	43	24	67	38
...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	1	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3	15	25	16	8	24	7	6	10	13	5	56	10	9	19	34
...	...	CW	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
...	44	...	...	5	1340	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	12	7
...	99	CW	...	...	...	...	...	CW	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	31	...	...	4	5	...	...	9	...	...	7	...	...	...	4	...
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

	Wellington 12/2010 (26)	Western Hamilton County 12/20/2009 (63)	Willmot 12/18/2009 (32)	Wooster 12/28/2009 (31)	Youngstown 12/19/2009 (34)	Total Individuals	Circles, Count Day	Circles, Count Week
Greater White-fronted Goose	---	---	---	---	---	5	3	3
Snow Goose	398	---	---	1	---	461	16	17
Ross's Goose	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Cackling Goose	---	1	---	3	---	15	8	8
Canada Goose	---	1690	2089	3054	192	107792	64	64
Mute Swan	---	7	---	3	---	106	18	20
Trumpeter Swan	---	---	---	---	---	160	8	8
Tundra Swan	12	---	---	30	---	1272	19	22
swan sp.	---	---	---	---	---	2	1	1
Wood Duck	---	---	---	1	---	40	16	16
Gadwall	cw	64	---	35	---	556	28	30
American Wigeon	---	---	---	---	---	64	14	16
American Black Duck	5	25	1	176	2	2975	52	52
Mallard	99	614	460	772	267	35175	65	65
Blue-winged Teal	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	2
Northern Shoveler	---	1	---	2	---	119	14	15
Northern Pintail	cw	1	---	1	---	75	17	19
Green-winged Teal	---	24	---	8	---	60	7	10
Canvasback	2	---	---	---	---	136	12	15
Redhead	6	---	---	1	---	233	22	24
Ring-necked Duck	20	73	---	1	---	728	26	28
Greater Scaup	---	---	---	---	---	1410	5	6
Lesser Scaup	10	---	---	---	---	4404	22	24
scaup sp.	---	---	---	---	---	3707	6	6
Surf Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	3	3	3
White-winged Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	53	4	4
Black Scoter	---	---	---	---	---	6	2	2
Long-tailed Duck	---	---	---	---	---	6	2	2
Buffhead	2	1	---	---	---	3545	29	31
Common Goldeneye	---	---	---	1	---	6300	17	20
Hooded Merganser	cw	---	---	2	18	846	38	40
Common Merganser	---	---	---	---	---	7705	11	11
Red-breasted Merganser	cw	---	---	---	---	56015	12	14
merganser sp.	---	---	---	---	---	982	1	1
Ruddy Duck	10	---	---	1	---	817	29	31
duck sp.	---	---	---	---	---	5743	8	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	---	---	1	1	46	21	22
Ruffed Grouse	---	---	---	---	---	5	4	4
Wild Turkey	---	24	16	104	29	2479	45	46
Northern Bobwhite	---	2	---	---	---	2	1	1
Common Loon	---	---	---	---	---	23	12	12
Pied-billed Grebe	1	11	---	1	---	154	25	26
Horned Grebe	---	---	---	---	---	15	7	8
American White Pelican	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	---	1	---	---	---	24	11	12
Great Blue Heron	---	33	8	20	3	906	57	58
Black-crowned Night-Heron	---	---	---	---	---	105	3	3
Black Vulture	---	19	cw	---	---	501	12	13
Turkey Vulture	---	13	11	---	---	603	17	17
Bald Eagle	2	1	2	4	2	418	50	53
Northern Harrier	6	10	4	5	---	255	48	48
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	9	3	4	---	131	45	45
Cooper's Hawk	4	24	23	9	4	560	65	65
Northern Goshawk	---	---	---	---	---	2	2	2
Accipiter sp.	---	1	---	---	---	11	9	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	23	---	2	---	300	45	46
Red-tailed Hawk	22	60	157	86	7	2666	65	65
Rough-legged Hawk	---	---	8	1	---	97	19	19
Buteo sp.	---	---	---	---	---	3	2	2
Golden Eagle	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
American Kestrel	14	17	67	19	3	845	62	62
Merlin	---	3	---	---	---	17	9	10
Peregrine Falcon	---	---	---	---	---	14	8	8
hawk sp.	---	---	3	---	---	7	3	3
American Coot	120	5	---	---	---	2436	33	34
Sandhill Crane	---	11	cw	3	---	974	9	14
Killdeer	---	15	21	17	---	262	27	28
Spotted Sandpiper	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Least Sandpiper	---	---	---	3	---	7	3	3





The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

Cincinnati 12/27/2009 (65)	Clark County 12/19/2009 (44)	Cleveland 12/19/2009 (23)	Columbus 12/20/2009 (55)	Cuyahoga Falls 12/20/2009 (29)	Dayton 12/27/2009 (60)	Delaware Reservoir 12/20/2009 (52)	East Fork Lake S.P. 1/2/2010 (67)	Elyria-Lorain 12/19/2009 (20)	Frieland 12/19/2009 (9)	Fremont 12/20/2009 (8)	Gall Woods 12/19/2009 (1)	Grand Lake-St. Marys 12/19/2009 (41)	Grand Rapids-Warrenville 1/2/2010 (2)	Greenville 12/20/2009 (43)	Gypsum 1/1/2010 (6)	Hamilton-Fairfield 12/19/2009 (62)
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	3	1	...	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	2
554	38	35	112	177	38	106	247	18	20	34	...	19	70	46	24	116
8	...	...	3	3	6	1	94	14	1	4	...	...	1	2	8	4
755	112	106	487	191	170	139	388	24	17	36	...	...	50	4	35	124
60	1	...	11	39	1	48	25	...	7	2	...	...	17	2	4	cw
202	13	236	277	645	92	406	280	155	126	385	57	110	712	105	126	77
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1328	212	257	784	1104	262	571	578	142	65	206	23	92	522	89	198	180
152	125	30	3	49	...	130	3	...	32	19924	...	...	...	...	40	158
26	...	...	...	...	6	89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	cw
1	...	...	...	5	...	1	13	...	40	50	...	...	...	1	...	...
60	46	...	13	12	...	63	10	6	1	72183	...	...	...	5	...	21
39	1	...	43	8	2	131	137	...	30	367	...	2	4	4	126	6
201	20	136	382	514	135	167	32	52	59	163	13	13	291	53	64	107
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
592	33	247	543	1075	242	271	213	138	92	387	23	42	453	53	64	133
552	84	519	1816	2768	261	1686	179	395	152	1648	36	1338	1307	858	2427	109
83	65	68	80	83	64	72	80	69	66	62	36	43	84	51	71	67
32833	37291	18809	44389	32441	10772	16350	17257	33007	34791	11461	1745	11148	28599	7689	36954	17842
95	9	34	52	99	37	40	14	23	26	16	5	13	45	16	18	17
167	19	54	119	212	85	104	40	44	44	42	7	37	97	40	38	46
New Lexington 1/3/2010 (75)	Ohio River N-O-HKY 12/19/2009 (64)	O'Slaughtnessy Reservoir 1/2/2010 (54)	Ottawa N.W.R. 1/3/2010 (4)	Oxford 12/19/2009 (61)	Paint Creek Area 12/20/2009 (66)	Parkersburg WV-OH 1/2/2010 (78)	Plymouth 1/2/2010 (12)	Pontsmouth 12/26/2009 (81)	Preble County 12/14/2009 (66)	Quail Hollow-Henrville 12/19/2009 (37)	Ragsville 12/29/2009 (70)	Rudolph 12/19/2009 (17)	Salem 1/3/2010 (33)	Tiffin 12/19/2009 (11)	Toledo 12/20/2009 (3)	Trumbull County 12/20/2009 (28)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1	1	1	cw	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...
13	583	62	39	39	97	111	8	66	23	51	1528	32	28	52	52	12
...	113	4	5	...	1	4	1	2	...	4	14	2	...	...	3	...
11	306	47	5	117	63	132	1	46	41	31	311	4	5	...	68	2
1	40	11	2	3	21	8	5	18	7	14	466	cw	16	2	72	...
134	59	341	185	130	134	201	79	106	10	314	1627	502	355	186	296	95
...	...	5	2	8	...	...	67	...	4	1	1205	...	...	21	23	...
223	502	368	278	175	164	533	47	139	55	351	2124	256	314	192	440	738
20	105	...	11241	32	126	...	...	4	...	1	671	8	30	35	72	...
...	24	4	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	2	...	...	...	...
10	14	...	1	194	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	1	32	1
21	...	2	1775	37	74	8	25	1	...	...	10917	...	...	341	66	3
5	40	...	4479	864	100	...	...	...	...	11	155	19	12	1150	73	29
1	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	4
24	53	209	70	76	43	90	37	21	19	94	609	135	42	191	185	72
81	365	242	208	142	139	163	95	89	16	159	851	129	55	149	391	140
59	76	1101	2178	1300	247	284	139	88	198	350	1568	1253	433	671	1172	224
52	77	73	67	66	73	62	50	67	73	85	64	50	59	95	58	...
1837	26621	14234	37389	12680	9387	7900	3189	7877	2934	11277	55173	16000	4706	9677	75874	10619
5	13	37	27	27	14	23	5	14	54	20	94	19	14	11	27	6
18	41	70	48	36	14	51	18	37	29	63	293	69	54	34	85	57

The Ohio Cardinal, Fall 2009 & Winter 2009-2010

	Wellington 1/2/2010 (26)	Western Hamilton County 12/20/2009 (63)	Wilmot 12/18/2009 (32)	Wooster 12/26/2009 (31)	Youngstown 12/19/2009 (34)	Total Individuals	Circles, Count/Day	Circles, Count/Week
Vesper Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Lark Sparrow	---	1	---	---	---	1	1	1
Savannah Sparrow	---	1	---	---	---	61	8	8
Fox Sparrow	---	3	1	1	1	57	27	28
Song Sparrow	19	560	589	200	12	8097	64	64
Lincoln's Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	4	2	2
Swamp Sparrow	---	32	28	64	---	582	44	44
White-throated Sparrow	4	415	138	69	7	5646	59	60
Harris's Sparrow	---	1	---	---	---	1	1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	6	16	391	76	---	2523	52	54
sparrow sp.	---	---	---	---	---	117	3	3
Dark-eyed Junco	257	277	642	420	67	16918	65	65
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	---	---	---	---	---	2	2	2
Lapland Longspur	3	---	6	---	---	2005	25	25
Snow Bunting	---	---	cw	---	---	1453	16	17
Northern Cardinal	191	939	1003	578	76	23294	65	65
Red-winged Blackbird	cw	99	236	716	20	34763	43	45
Eastern Meadowlark	---	38	1	cw	---	415	17	21
Yellow-headed Blackbird	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Rusty Blackbird	---	36	29	213	---	1233	24	25
Brewer's Blackbird	---	---	---	---	---	2	1	1
blackbird sp.	---	---	1087	---	---	13267	5	5
Common Grackle	---	201	11	588	---	83489	47	48
Brown-headed Cowbird	cw	33	354	215	---	9058	46	48
Purple Finch	---	13	---	---	2	236	25	27
House Finch	76	182	476	148	33	7725	65	65
White-winged Crossbill	---	---	---	---	---	2	1	1
Common Redpoll	---	---	---	---	---	8	2	2
Pine Siskin	---	---	---	1	---	37	12	12
American Goldfinch	106	415	672	293	94	13800	65	65
Evening Grosbeak	---	---	---	---	---	2	1	1
House Sparrow	435	727	1549	706	227	45034	65	65
total species	54	86	71	90	44	157	---	---
total individuals	4753	47681	26068	16727	6563	1230762	---	---
observers	17	45	73	36	6	1644	65	---
party hours	45	88	152	104	29	3907	---	---

## Recent Actions of the Ohio Bird Records Committee

### *Ned Keller*

*Secretary, Ohio Bird Records Committee  
8098 Turcotte Lane  
North Bend, OH 45052  
keller@one.net*

Between March 2009 and March 2010, the Ohio Bird Records Committee resolved 49 records. These consisted of 40 accepted records of 27 species, the review of one previously accepted record to clarify its nesting status, the review of the historical status of one species, and the non-acceptance of seven records. This resulted in the addition of three species to the Ohio checklist, bringing the total number of documented species to 425.

The documentation details of several records contain the notation (Internet) indicating that we did not receive documentation directly, but that we were able to find sufficient information on the Internet, including photographs and descriptions, to provide reliable substantiation of those records. A simple report that a bird has been seen—even by many people—is insufficient. The records reviewed here included details of appearance, or photographs, sufficient to rule out all other species.

Many other sightings reported on the Internet, which otherwise would

constitute important records, are not reported here, because we could not track down enough information to confirm them. When you see a very rare bird, please consider submitting documentation to the committee. Instructions on how to do so and a documentation form are online at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>. However, that form is optional—a simple copy of field notes is often good enough. Many thanks to Tom Bartlett and Bill Whan, whose terms expired in March 2010, for their service to the committee, and we welcome Matt Anderson and Su Snyder, who are beginning their new three-year terms, to the committee.

### ***Records Accepted:***

- a) **Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.):**  
one individual, Portage County; 26 November 2009, documentation by Karin Tanquist & Patrick Coy; vote 7-0.

### **Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*):** two records accepted:

- a) one individual, **Lake** County; 02 July 2009, documentation by John Pogacnik (Internet); vote 7-0.
- b) one individual, **Hamilton** County; 13 July 2009, documentation by Frank Renfrow; vote 7-0.

**White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*):** one individual, **Guernsey** County; 14 July 2009, documentation by Eric Hall, Renee Tressler and Jeffrey Spaulding (present through 19 July 2009); vote 7-0.

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*):** one individual, **Ottawa** County; 04 July 2009, documentation by Dave Lewis (present 29 June 2009 through 04 July 2009); vote 7-0.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*):** two records accepted:

- a) one individual, **Coshocton** County; 26 April 2009, documentation by David H. Yoder; vote 7-0.
- b) one individual, **Lucas** County; 30 October 2009, documentation by Gerry Klug; vote 6-1.

**Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*):** one individual, **Holmes** County; 21 October 2009, documentation by Gabe Leidy (Internet) (present 19 October 2009 through 21 October 2009); vote 7-0.

**Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*):** added to the Ohio checklist on the basis of numerous 19th-century accounts. Although there are no extant specimens reliably attributed to Ohio, several accounts in the literature describe Ohio specimens as existing at the time. Our thanks to Bill Whan for his historical research on this species.

Vote 6-1.

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*):** three records accepted:

- a) one individual, **Wayne** County; 02 May 2009 through 04 May 2009, documentation by Gabe Leidy (Internet); vote 7-0.
- b) one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 28 July 2009, documentation by Craig Caldwell (present 26 July 2009 through 31 July 2009); vote 7-0.
- c) one individual, **Ashtabula** County; 22 August 2009, documentation by Laura Keene (Internet); vote 7-0. This is definitely not the same individual as the previous record, because photos of the two birds showed different colored leg bands.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*):**

one record accepted, and a second record clarified:

- a) one individual, **Wayne** County; 02 May 2009 through 04 May 2009, documentation by Gabe Leidy (Internet); vote 7-0.
- b) the record of four individuals from **Seneca** County, from 30 June 2008 through 08 July 2008, previously reported in *The Ohio Cardinal* 31 (4): 52 as record (c), is accepted as a nesting record; vote 6-1.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*):** one individual, **Ottawa** County; 19 May 2009, documentation by Brenda Tekin (present 19 May 2009



through 22 May 2009); vote 7-0.

**Black-headed Gull**

(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*): one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 09 January 2009, documentation by Jen Brumfield; vote 7-0.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

: one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 07 February 2009, documentation by Gabe Leidy; vote 7-0.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**

(*Streptopelia decaocto*): one individual, **Holmes** County; 27 June 2009, documentation by Gabe Leidy (Internet); vote 7-0.

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

- two records accepted:
- one individual, **Holmes** County; 25 June 2009 through 26 June 2009, documentation by Reuben M. Barkman; vote 6-1.
  - one individual, **Holmes** County; 24 December 2009 through 02 January 2010, documentation by Dick Beery; vote 7-0.

**Allen's Hummingbird**

(*Selasphorus sasin*): one individual, **Holmes** County; 11 December 2009, documentation by Allen Chartier (present early October 2009 through 27 December 2009); vote 7-0. **First state record.**

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

: one individual, **Greene** County; 26 November 2009 through 29 November 2009, documentation by

Ken Beers; vote 7-0.

**Vermilion Flycatcher**

(*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): one individual, **Lake** County; 02 October 2009, documentation by Ben Morrison and Ethan Kistler; vote 7-0.

**Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**

: one individual, **Sandusky** County; 17 May 2009, documentation by John Kuenzli; vote 7-0.

**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)**

- five records accepted:
- two individuals, **Monroe** County; 12 January 2009, documentation by Laura Stolder; vote 7-0.
  - one individual, **Jefferson** County; 01 March 2009, documentation by Eric Hall; vote 6-1.
  - one individual, **Jefferson** County; 09 March 2009, documentation by Eric Hall; vote 6-1. This was in a different Jefferson County location than the previous record.
  - one individual, **Jefferson** County; 26 March 2009; documentation by Rob Lowry; vote 7-0. This was yet another Jefferson County location; three individuals were reported, but not documented, from the same location on 27 March.
  - four individuals, **Harrison** County; 28 June 2009, documentation by Robert Harlan; vote 7-0.

**Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*):** one individual, **Holmes** County; 12 September 2009, documentation by Rob and Sandy Harlan (present 12 September 2009 through 15 September 2009); vote 7-0.

**Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*):** one individual, **Lucas** County; 08 April 2009, documentation by Craig Caldwell and Kenn Kaufman (Internet) (present 05 April 2009 through 17 April 2009); vote 7-0.

**Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*):** one individual, **Lucas** County (although the documentation submitted stated Ottawa County, the specific location is in Lucas County); 18 March 2009, documentation by Nick A. Fensler; vote 6-1.

**Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*):** 35 individuals, **Mercer** County; 11 April 2009 through 25 April 2009, documentation from Internet sources; vote 7-0.

**Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*):** five records accepted:

- a) one individual, **Adams** County; 12 May 2009, documentation by Pete Whan; vote 7-0.
- b) one individual, **Lucas** County; 15 May 2009, documentation by Ryan Schroeder; vote 6-1.
- c) one individual, **Ottawa** County; 17 May to 18 May 2009, documentation from

Internet sources; vote 7-0.

- d) one individual, **Lake** County; 21 May 2009, documentation by John Pogacnik (Internet); vote 7-0.
- e) one individual, **Ottawa** County; 18 September 2009, documentation by Jim Lindway (present 18 September 2009 through 19 September 2009); vote 7-0.

**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*):** one individual, **Lucas** County; 16 May 2009, documentation by Tammy Seaman (Internet); vote 7-0.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*):** one individual, **Hancock** County; 27 March 2009 to 25 April 2009, documentation by Ron and Victoria Saklosky, Elizabeth Hardesty, Wilma Seiler, Anna Scharbrough and Jeff Loughman; vote 7-0. **First state record.**

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*):** one individual, **Delaware** County; 14 December 2008 through 11 January 2009, documentation by Michele Dixon, Darlene Sillick, and Doreene Linzell; vote 7-0.

**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*):** one individual, **Lucas** County; 14 December 2008, documentation by Matt Anderson; vote 7-0.

### **Records Not Accepted:**

**Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*):** two individuals, **Lucas** County; 22 April 2009; vote 1-6. The observer had only a very brief look at the birds, apparently without binoculars.

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*):** one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 19 November 2009; vote 3-4. This report from experienced observers was quite possibly an accurate identification of a Pacific Loon, but the majority of the committee believed that the observed details did not rule out other species.

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*):** two individuals, **Lorain** County; 26 December 2009; vote 1-6. The description did not completely rule out other species; and the committee believed that a record of more than one individual, by a single observer, would require impeccable documentation.

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*):** four or more individuals, **Lucas** County; 07 March through 17 March 2009; vote 0-7. Multiple observations by a single observer, seen while driving along an expressway.

**McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*):** one individual, **Cuyahoga** County; 10 March 1880; vote 0-7. The year is not a misprint – this record is a review of specimen 183160 from

the ornithology collection at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, which bears a tag relating that it was collected on that date by L. Hall in Lakewood, Ohio. Historical research by Bill Whan demonstrates that Hall was in Nebraska at that time, and that the location stated on the tag is therefore erroneous.

**Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*):** two individuals, **Union** County; 06 August 2009; vote 0-7. The photos provided appeared to depict Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*).

**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*):** one individual, **Hamilton** County; 20 December 2009; vote 1-6. This bird may well have been a Harris's Sparrow, but the detail contained in the documentation was too sparse to be certain.



*The Counties of Ohio*